

Kabariti leaves for UAE, Bahrain today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti leaves on official visits to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain today (Monday) in the first such visit by a Jordanian foreign minister to these countries after the Gulf crisis. Mr. Kabariti, in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said his visit was aimed at "clearing the Arab atmosphere and pave the way for collective Arab action in the interests of the Arab Nation." Mr. Kabariti said he was making the visit in response to invitations extended to him by his UAE and Bahraini counterparts. Mr. Kabariti, who took office on Jan. 8 in the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, has already visited Cairo and Tunis to advance Jordan's efforts for Arab reconciliation and heal the rift caused by the Gulf crisis. He was successful in arranging a visit to Jordan by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Jan. 21 for the first time since the Gulf crisis.

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Arab League plans meeting on Somalia

AIRO (AFP) — League is planning to organise an international meeting on ending the conflict between warring clans in Somalia before U.N. troops pull out in March, a leading official said Sunday. League Secretary-General Iqbal Abdul Meguid told journalists that invitations had been sent to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali as well as all the Somali actions in the conflict and to concerned countries. He added that the league would not forward "suggestions on ways of peacefully solving the Somali crisis." Last year two delegations from the pan-Arab organisation visited Somalia in a vain bid to reconcile the factions.

Israeli firm finds oil west of Dead Sea

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli oil exploration company has found crude oil just west of the Dead Sea but it is not yet known whether it is of commercial quantity, an energy ministry spokesman said on Sunday. The find was made by a state-controlled Israeli National Oil Company, Hani. Shares in other oil exploration companies traded in the Tel Aviv bourse rose by 10 per cent on the news. Drilling at the site, called Trunk Tamur, will continue for at least another month to determine whether the find is of commercial value, the ministry spokesman said.

Russian embassy in Yemen attacked

SANAA (AP) — The Russian embassy was attacked here last week in an act linked to the Chechen war, but no injuries were reported. Two hand grenades were hurled into the walled compound in the centre of the capital on Jan. 22, an embassy diplomat said Sunday. He refused to give his name. Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency Sunday quoted Minister-Counselor Leonid Rogov saying one of the grenades exploded, shattering windows and causing some structural damage. ITAR-TASS said newspapers in Yemen have described the attack as "an act of retribution" in solidarity with Chechen Muslims battling a Russian military campaign aimed at crushing their bid for independence.

Qaboos accepts land gift in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Sultan Qaboos of Oman has accepted a gift of land in Pakistan that became a focus of controversy in the country, the visiting Omani commerce minister said here Sunday. Magbool Ben Alif Sultan dismissed doubts that the recent controversy over the gift of 100 acres in the coastal area of Gwadar in Baluchistan would dampen relations between the two countries. "Oman's relations with all sides in Pakistan are very good and we have got no problems with any party," he said. Political opponents of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had accused her of selling back Gwadar to Oman, which sold and ceded the area to Pakistan in 1958. "A gift of 100 acres was given and His Majesty accepted that as it is very normal thing to do," Mr. Magbool said.

'Kuwait could face extremism'

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti religious activist said in remarks published on Sunday the government was trying to curb Islamist influence and this could cause extremism and intolerance. "There is evidence that ... the government is trying to trim the wings of Islamic work," Al Anba daily quoted Nazeem Al Mesbah, an influential member of the Salaf Islamist movement, as saying. "The behaviour of some officials ... might lead to extremism. People are emotional about their beliefs," said Mr. Mesbah. Kuwait's

Government wins confidence vote

54 votes in favour; 22 against; one abstention; two absent; speaker does not vote

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Sunday won the confidence of the Lower House of Parliament with 54 deputies voting in its favour, 22 withholding confidence and one lawmaker abstaining. Two deputies were absent and House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour did not vote. Deputies who withheld confidence from the government were the 17 members of the Islamic Action Front, independent deputy Talal Obeidat (Irbid) and leftist parliamentarians Khalil Haddadin (Amman), Bassam Haddadin (Zarqa), Mustafah Shneikat (Balqa) and Toujan Faisal (Amman).

The two deputies who were absent from the voting were Ibrahim Shihdeh (Balqa) and Farah Al Rabadi (Ajloun), Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh (Madaba) was the lawmaker who abstained. The vote came at the end of a two-day session in which 32 lawmakers took the floor to express their views on the government and its policies.

The government was expected to win such a comfortable majority due to its inclusion of 17 lawmakers who represent the majority of parliamentary blocs and "the respect and confidence in which members of the House hold the prime minister," as some deputies put it. In their speeches, the

majority of deputies expressed confidence in the ability of Sharif Zeid to face up to the challenges of the new era but some criticised the composition of his team while opposition representatives attacked the cabinet for its commitment to the peace treaty with Israel and for the "encroachment" on democracy that they said characterised the past period.

The majority of lawmakers described as comprehensive the policy statement on whose basis the government asked for the confidence of the House, but some lawmakers said the statement was big on generalities and included no specific plans of action for implementing the tasks spelled out for it by His Majesty King Hussein in the letter of designation.

Responding to deputies' comments before the vote of confidence was cast, Sharif Zeid said these comments would be taken into consideration by the government which, he said, would continue to cooperate with the legislature (see excerpts of the speech on page 7).

The prime minister also reiterated pledges to consolidate democracy, respect freedom of expression, improve the economy, organise the labour market, strengthen efforts to ease the burdens of poverty and unemployment, develop the education curriculum, maintain support for the Palestinians and seek better ties with Arab countries.



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday addresses the Lower House of Parliament before deputies cast a vote of confidence in his cabinet (photo by Youssef A'lan)

Sharif Zeid's speech addressed most of the issues raised by lawmakers in the confidence debate but he said the "good Islamic manners according to which we were brought up, respect for the House" and the country were among the reasons why he would not respond to "the slander" that he and his government had to listen to during the session.

The prime minister was referring to the unprecedented scathing personal attack that Deputy Toujan Faisal launched at him in her speech.

In the speech, "slandorous" parts of which the House voted to delete from its official records, Ms. Faisal accused Sharif Zeid of being a "front for other players" who, she claimed, run the affairs of the government.

She said the only good quality of Sharif Zeid that her "investigation" about him revealed was that he is "a good man" which, she said, is not enough to qualify him to be a prime minister.

Though she warned her colleagues against confusing the government with regime,

Ms. Faisal said such confusion had already been consolidated.

As Ms. Faisal continued her "slander" against the prime minister, Mr. Srour warned her twice that he would stop her from completing her speech unless she abides by the regulations of the House which ban personal attacks.

Protests against the speech were also made by several deputies but Ms. Faisal carried on levelling accusations against Sharif Zeid and some members of his team, who,

she said, will "only contribute to increasing corruption."

She said she was referring to ministers of state in the government who were not given specific portfolios because "the government itself did not trust them."

"I do not think that (Sharif Zeid) ran the affairs of his government (in 1991) and I do not think that he will run the affairs of this government ... he is just a front and I would like to know who the real players are," Ms. Faisal said.

Ms. Faisal contended that the prime minister is not an able person to lead the government and could not find what his views and political colour are. She said the prime minister never spoke in public or answered questions of deputies and journalists directly and "challenged" him to speak in a public meeting with journalists, politicians and other people.

Ms. Faisal also attacked the peace process, which, she said, the previous government concluded under orders from foreign powers. She also attacked the press, senior officers in the armed and security forces, questioned the independence of the judiciary and rejected the fairness of the parliamentary elections of 1989.

Fellow deputies were also attacked by Ms. Faisal for allegedly giving confidence to governments under threats, saying that some time they

would have to pay for that. In expression of their rejection of Ms. Faisal's speech, lawmakers voted with "clear majority" to delete the "slandorous" parts in it from the records of the House.

"Do you accept such slander in Parliament? Slander should not be accepted or allowed," Deputy Mifteh Al Lawzi (Amman) told lawmakers, proposing that the House delete unacceptable language in Ms. Faisal's speech.

Mr. Srour asserted that the House would not allow any violations of its regulations and promised to scratch such references from the records.

Ms. Faisal on earlier occasions antagonised most of her colleagues for "insulting the House." After a confrontation with Deputy Jamal Khrisha last year, she said: "The House has no manners and I will teach it such manners" in addition to other offensive comments.

Some lawmakers contrasted Ms. Faisal's speech to the "balanced" manner in which the Islamic Action Front parliamentary bloc expressed its opposition to the government.

In a speech delivered on their behalf by Deputy Abdullah Akkash (Tafilah), the IAF deputies criticised the government for entering peace with Israel and said they would continue to fight

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Pelletreau reaffirms U.S. pledge

AMMAN (Agencies) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East Robert Pelletreau on Sunday reiterated that his country would support Jordan economically and politically.

The American official was speaking at a meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, with whom he discussed the Amman economic summit to be held in October and the progress of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

Discussion also covered issues of mutual concern and international questions and the image of Islam in the West, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Prince Hassan emphasised the need to prevent all attempts to distort the image of Islam in the light of the current events in some countries. He said that Islam should be understood in its right perspective in the Western world.

Mr. Pelletreau, who was received in audience Saturday by His Majesty King Hussein and visited a number of organisations, left Amman Sunday at the end of a two-day visit to the Kingdom.

Mr. Pelletreau also met Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti to discuss regional and international issues of mutual concern.

Mr. Pelletreau said Saturday that the U.S. administration "will do its utmost and in coordination with Congress in its new composition to provide economic assistance to Jordan."

Congress approved last year reducing a first installment of \$220 million of a total of \$702 million of official debt Washington agreed to write off over three years. The U.S. official said Washington would work to find the best means to help improve Amman's chronic balance of payments deficit and encourage American investment in the country.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday shakes hands with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East affairs Richard Pelletreau. At left is Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti (Petra photo)

Yemen, S. Arabia try to break deadlock

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia and Yemen held more talks here Sunday to try to settle their border dispute, a Yemeni official said, despite a week of negotiations.

Saudi Arabia's defence minister, Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, and Yemen's speaker of parliament, Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar, led the negotiating teams at "working session" on Sunday morning, the delegate said.

They were meeting again in the evening. Presidents Hafez Al Assad of Syria and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, whose governments mediated a Jan. 15 accord to prevent military escalation after an armed clash, contacted the two sides at the weekend.

Riyadh denied Saturday that it had massed troops along the border in the last week after Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh charged that it had done so before withdrawing them to 15 kilometres from the frontier.

The two countries are in dispute over the provinces of Najran, Jizan, and Assir close to the border and assigned to Saudi Arabia under a treaty signed in 1934.

Yemen argues the Taif accord expired in September 1992 but has said it is willing to renegotiate the treaty.

A Yemeni official in Sanaa said Saturday that the two sides had advanced proposals in Riyadh that were "irreconcilable."

"The Yemeni working group is demanding that the Taif accord is taken as a whole, and insists on normalisation between the two countries prior to a settlement of the border dispute," the Yemeni official said.

"However, the Saudis are demanding the renewal of the Taif accord, the demarcation of the unmarked border from Jabal Al Thar to the Oman-Yemen border, as well as the demarcation of the maritime borders, before any normalisation."

"By massing their troops along the border, Saudi brothers ... want to put pressure on Yemen," the official added, condemning the "show of force by hardliners in the Saudi leadership which have expansionist aims."

A Saudi official quoted by the Saudi Press Agency denied the charge.

He said Riyadh "remains attached in the terms of the mediation accord concluded between the two countries on Jan. 15 following a previous armed incident on their border and calls on Yemen to show the same commitment."

Both countries then agreed to avoid a military escalation on the border following Syrian and Egyptian mediation aimed at defusing tension caused by a Jan. 10 border clash which diplomat's said left 40 Yemenis and 14 Saudis dead.

No letup in Grozny bombing

GROZNY (Agencies) — Street battles between Russian troops and Chechen rebels continued in downtown Grozny amid heavy Russian shelling Sunday as a European mission arrived in the devastated city to look into allegations of excessive brutality in the Chechen war.

Black columns of smoke rose over the Chechen capital as artillery shells and mines slammed into its neighbourhoods. Explosions could be heard from the distance of several dozen kilometres.

"There have not been major changes for the past night. Fighting still goes on. The front line passes along Sunzha River," running across Grozny, said Isa Musostov, 40, whose small unit of Chechen fighters was stationed on the outskirts of the city.

There is a very heavy shelling. They are using large mortars to fire from the industrial district," he said, adding that the Russian army was mostly targeting residential areas.

Chechen separatists launched pre-dawn attacks on Russian troops holding the military airfield of Khankala on the eastern outskirts of Grozny and on the Russian forces holding a bridge across Sunzha in city centre.

Chechen Information Minister Movladi Udugov told the Interfax news agency.

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Israel extends closure, urges PLO 'iron fist'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel on Sunday extended its closure of the West Bank and Gaza for another week and urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to use an iron fist against opponents of the autonomy accord in exchange for a long-delayed Israeli troop pullout from occupied territories.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted by ministers as saying at the weekly cabinet meeting that the peace process with the PLO was at a crossroads and that "terrorism has become a strategic danger."

A cabinet communiqué said he had empowered the treasury and police ministers to set up teams to examine "ways and means to achieve a separation" between Israelis and Palestinians.

Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tsur said the separation plan could ultimately lead to the PLO's dream of an independent Palestinian state.

"In the long term, it will mean setting borders, removing settlements, and indeed, the formation of an independent Palestinian entity."

Asked if he meant a Palestinian state, Mr. Tsur said: "Personally, I don't see this as the most dangerous thing."

As the cabinet met, police announced a first step towards an envisaged separation — the deployment this week of guard dogs along the frontier with the West Bank.

Israel, still burying its dead from a suicide bombing that killed 21 Israelis a week ago, has been reluctant to endorse the use of police dogs, wary of comparisons with the Nazis' use of the animals to guard Jews in concentration camps.

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James Grant, pioneering head of UNICEF, passes away at 72

AMMAN (J.T.) — James P. Grant, the crusading director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) who won international acclaim for his efforts to improve children's health around the world, died Saturday, two days after resigning for health reasons. He was 72.

The cause of death was cancer, according to a statement from UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa Regional Office in Amman said.

"Despite his illness, he continued to lead UNICEF with characteristic energy and had met over the last year with more than 40 world leaders to seek their active support for the cause of children," the statement said.

United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali last week announced the resignation of Mr. Grant as executive director of UNICEF for health reasons and had asked Grant's deputy Mr. Richard Jolly to continue as acting executive director.

In a statement following Mr. Grant's death, Dr. Ghali said: "Very few men or women ever have the oppor-



James P. Grant

tunity to do as much good in the world as James Grant; and very few have ever grasped that opportunity with such complete and dedicated commitment. He will be remembered as a most distinguished servant of the United Nations and as one of the greatest international public servants of his generation."

As UNICEF head, Grant emphasised simple, low-cost methods of improving pediatric health, such as immunisation and oral rehydration.

Since 1980, when he took over as head of UNICEF, the percentage of children receiving immunisations in the developing world has risen from 20 per cent to 80 per cent.

Grant travelled the world, meeting with more than 100 government leaders. He always carried a packet of oral rehydration salts in his pocket, as well as a note on the number of children killed by preventable diseases.

The salts are used to treat children suffering from diarrhoea, a leading child killer in developing countries.

In Washington, U.S. President Bill Clinton said: "Throughout his long career Jim Grant was a visionary leader — one of the most distinguished international public servants of our time."

Under Grant's 15 years of leadership UNICEF has earned a reputation as one of the most effective and esteemed U.N. agencies.

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Death in custody raises furor over PNA police torture

By Said Ghazali
The Associated Press

JERICHO — Mourners wept at the funeral of a Palestinian man who died in police custody and cursed the men responsible.

One grieving woman shouted, "they are the dogs in the desert."

She was referring to the community's police force, fellow Palestinians who are accused of torture and widespread intimidation in this autonomy outpost.

Suleiman Jalayta, a 48-year-old father of six, was arrested in the middle of the night Sunday on suspicion of being an Israeli informant.

By Wednesday, he was dead. His corpse, shown to reporters, carried signs of slits by a sharp instrument on his wrists, forehead and the back of his neck.

"I saw signs on his wrists from a tightened rope and a bruise on the brow. I asked an interrogator about the bruise and he said that he knocked his head against the wall," said Hanan Ashrawi, the former Palestinian spokeswoman who is now a human rights monitor.

After a meeting with Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian undercover units in Jericho, she said it was too early to draw conclusions.

There are widespread complaints both in Jericho and the Gaza Strip of security services swelling beyond control since the police arrived last May.

Terje Larson, top U.N. representative to the self-rule

authority, noted this week that police ranks had reached 15,000, well above the 9,000 that the organisation said it would bankroll through donor aid.

Palestinians complain bitterly about their treatment under Israeli occupation since 1967, and are dismayed to see their own police using similar tactics.

Mr. Rajoub defended recent nighttime arrests, saying the men were suspected of involvement in the death of a Hamas activist, arson, stoning joint Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) police patrols and printing anti-PLO leaflets.

"We are not practising the same thing the Israelis used to do against our people," Mr. Rajoub said, denying that anyone had been tortured.

Many Palestinians fear the deaths and general lack of legal control over police activity mean the Palestinians' self-rule areas are sliding into the kind of security state common throughout the Arab World.

"It is anarchy in Gaza and Jericho. There are no laws on detention or trial," said Ghazi Jeyab, a Palestinian activist once jailed for years by Israel.

"We have no security at all, only various conflicting security apparatuses."

Jericho, with a population of 15,000 has more than 1,000 police in various branches.

Under the terms of the Israel-PLO agreement, prisoners from the West Bank were to serve out their sentences in Jericho. To give

them something to do in the quiet agricultural town, some were inducted into the security services.

They include Palestinian activists convicted of killing informants during the uprising against the Israeli occupation that started in 1987.

The charge of informing for Israel was levelled frequently during the occupation, with more than 800 Palestinians slain by fellow Palestinians. While Israel did maintain an extensive web of informants, the killings were often a means of settling clan or personal rivalries.

Jericho is succumbing to a climate of fear.

Among those arrested along with the apparent torture victim was Rashid Al-Fityani, 23. His younger brother Adib, 15, said a dozen men burst into the house and dragged him away.

He was reportedly taken to a Jerusalem hospital in serious condition, but no relatives have been able to find him and the security services said they do not know his whereabouts.

Few want to give their names when discussing police activities for fear it will bring the police to their doors.

One middle-aged man who said he was beaten by security police glanced around the street, watching the blue-uniformed police and the undercover units with pistols tucked into the back of their pants.

"I am very scared. Gangsters are around. They can kill and cover their crimes," the frightened man whispered.



ACROSS THE FENCE: Two Jordanian army officers shake hands with Israeli army officers across the fence in the Raqqura area in the north on Sunday during a media trip to the territories which Israel will return to Jordan under the Oct. 26 peace treaty (see story on page 12) (photo by Youssef Alhan)

Thieves strip Egypt of heritage

CAIRO (AFP) — The centuries-old illegal trade in stolen archaeological treasures in Egypt has become more profitable than arms or drug smuggling and is draining the country's heritage, experts say.

More than 3,000 antiques disappeared in 16 thefts last year, often with the collusion of caretakers, said antiquities official Abdul Halim Nouredin.

"This trade is more profitable than drugs or arms trafficking because the stolen objects are priceless," said Mr. Nouredin, chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation.

"Meanwhile, the budget available to improve the protection of ancient artefacts is shrinking," he complained. The favourite targets of thieves from both Egypt and abroad are small artefacts no bigger than 40 centimetres in height — such as gold scarabs or Pharaonic amulets in turquoise — which are easy to export.

"To get them abroad, they cover them in very fine material to fool customs officers into thinking they are reproductions," Mr. Nouredin said.

He said Cairo was negotiating with two countries for the return of artefacts stolen

in two separate thefts, organised by Egyptians and foreigners.

An antiquities inspector, who asked not to be named, said thieves send their customers a picture catalogue of stolen items so they can choose which ones they want.

Most thefts take place in storerooms belonging to the antiquities office and often while caretakers turn a blind eye.

"It is very easy to buy off badly-paid caretakers or the foremen of quarries in the desert where workers often find archaeological artefacts," the inspector said.

He cited the case of a storehouse in Nazlet Al-Saman, near the Cairo pyramids, which was stripped two years ago after caretakers were invited to a banquet by local inhabitants.

"Some labourers who take part in digs also sneak off with artefacts," he said.

The inspector also pointed the finger at inhabitants of Al-Qurna in the Valley of the Kings, a Pharaonic graveyard rich in treasures near the southern Egyptian town of Luxor.

"Many treasure hunters are buried underground and they dig underneath their houses without telling us what they find," the inspector said. The

inhabitants have resisted several attempts to make them leave the village.

Mr. Nouredin said he would like to see safer storerooms and the appointment of experienced, trained guards for better pay to combat thefts.

"In coming weeks we are planning to hire 450 qualified caretakers with training in handling weapons," he said, adding that lights would be installed at all archaeological sites and stores.

Theft of antiquities should be considered "high treason," he said, and sentences increased from the current maximum of three years in jail.

However, the extra security measures could be delayed through cash shortages. The antiquities department, like the rest of Egypt's tourism industry, has been hard hit by three years of Islamic militant violence which has specifically targeted Western tourists in the past.

The theft of Pharaonic treasures is a problem as old as the artefacts themselves. Thieves began to ransack richly-laden tombs around 3,000 years ago.

"That is why 80 per cent of Pharaonic caves we discover are empty," said tourist guide Medhat Nafie.

Romanians replace Palestinians as cheap labour

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Romanian workers have replaced Palestinians as cheap, exploited labour in Israel and often get worse treatment from their employers, human rights groups say.

Romanians make up 60 per cent of the 70,000 foreign workers in Israel, and their numbers are growing all the time as the Jewish state repeatedly seals off the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The indefinite closure of the territories after last week's suicide bombing near the Israeli coastal resort of Netanya prevents 50,000 Palestinians from getting to their jobs.

"Romanians are more vulnerable than Palestinians, because they are dependent not only on their bosses but also on the people who bring them here," said Yael Gilboa of the Israeli Human Rights Association.

"Labour legislation does not apply to these people who do not have even the most basic rights, like social security, sickness benefit or

redunancy pay," she added.

Alarmed by the drastic plight of its citizens, the Romanian foreign ministry has lodged an official complaint with Israeli authorities.

A group of shabbily-dressed Romanian stone-masons, aged between 40 and 50, share an old hut on wasteland on Tel Aviv's sea front.

They regularly gather at a local bar, drink beer and gaze at the television.

Denise, a former prostitute from Haifa, complains that the Romanians "have no money and only think about getting their next drink."

Ion, 40, married and a father of two, arrived here seven months ago. He works on a building site in the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikva and shares three rooms with two fellow Romanians.

He proudly shows off his passport, which has not been confiscated, unlike those of many of his compatriots in Israel. He does not want to speak ill of his homeland or the Jewish state.

Majlis amends law on banning satellites

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament on Sunday amended a law banning satellites to clarify how the operation against the dishes would be funded, parliamentary sources said.

The move came after a supervisory council sent back the law, approved on Jan. 1, arguing parts of the ban were unconstitutional for making the government incur unnecessary expenses.

The Council of Guardians, which sees to ensure laws conform to Islamic principles and the constitution, asked parliament to clarify how the operation to remove hundreds of thousands of dishes in Iran and the fight against satellite equipment smuggling would be funded.

Parliament added an article to the law on Sunday, saying the cost of the operation would be financed through the fines imposed on violators.

The money would be deposited in the public treasury and then transferred to the interior and culture ministries as well as state television to be spent on the fight against Western culture.

The ban gives satellite users one month to take down their dishes and related equipment or face legal action. Anyone found owning or importing satellite dishes could face a heavy fine besides having the equipment seized.

Hundreds of thousands of satellite dishes have sprung up on roof tops in Tehran and other major cities allowing many Iranians to watch foreign television programmes

Food shortages, sharp prices in Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — Shortages of food and medicine in Iraq coupled with sharp price hikes are likely to increase deaths and malnutrition among children, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Saturday.

Iraq has been under trade sanctions imposed by the United Nations since its troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Iraq rejected a U.N. offer allowing it to sell a limited quantity of oil to buy food and medicine, claiming that U.N. terms were an infringement on Baghdad's sovereignty.

INA, monitored in Cyprus, quoted a study prepared by government researchers as saying the state-distributed food rations provided only 736 calories out of 2,306 calories needed, "which increases the rate of malnutrition, chronic disease and death among children."

It said the government managed to provide only 60 per cent of the needed quantity of milk for babies under one year old.

The researchers said prices of food in the black market have increased dramatically and many families had to sell

personal belongings to buy essential foodstuffs.

Iraqis contacted by telephone said that since the U.N. Security Council renewed the sanctions earlier this month, prices had risen sharply.

They said the national currency, the dinar, fell to a record low of 750 per dollar on the black market while the Iraqi Central Bank's rate sank to 600 to the dollar, from an earlier rate of 530. Before the sanctions, the official rate was \$3 per dinar.

Some typical price hikes since the beginning of the month:

— A tray of 30 eggs jumped from 1,350 dinars (\$1.80 at the black-market rate) to 1,700 (\$2.25).

— Sugar from 400 dinars (\$0.55) per kilo to 550 (\$0.75).

— Meat from 700 dinars (\$0.95) per kilo to 920 (\$1.20).

— Cooking oil from 750 dinars (\$1) per kilo to 970 (\$1.30).

A typical monthly salary for a middle-ranking government employee in Iraq would be about 1,500 dinars (\$2). The inflation forced the

government last week to issue a new 250-dinar banknote, to be added to the 50- and 100-dinar notes issued following the Gulf crisis.

Commenting on the price increases, the Babil daily newspaper, run by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, on Thursday warned merchants, money dealers and profiteers to "come to their senses before the Iraqi people and the leadership lose their patience."

It accused unnamed merchants of sabotaging the economy, a crime that carries the death sentence, and said the "government has the courage to use the means in its possession when the need arises."

An Iraqi businessman in exile, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Babil was indirectly reminding the merchants of the execution of 40 traders in the summer of 1992.

Iraq has recently intensified a global campaign to try to win the support of Russia, France, China, Spain and other countries to lift the crippling embargo.

The United States and Britain strongly oppose lifting the embargo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syria, Turkey discuss border security

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Turkish security chief Mehmet Agar arrived here Sunday for talks with Syrian officials on ways to step up security along the two countries' border, Turkish diplomats said. Mr. Agar and General Bader Hassan, security chief for the Syrian Interior Ministry, would focus mainly on the problem of smuggling between the two countries and on cooperation in the fight against drugs, they added. Delegations from the two countries meet twice a year to exchange information about security along their 1,000-kilometre border.

Abu Dhabi may import water from Pakistan

ABU DHABI (R) — The Emirate of Abu Dhabi is looking at a plan to import fresh water from the mountains of Pakistan, a senior Pakistani official said on Sunday. "We left them (the Abu Dhabi authorities) a copy of the feasibility study," said Shahid Hasan Khan, special economic assistant to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He was speaking at a news conference in Abu Dhabi, one of seven members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The plan entails building a dam at Hingol, which is 233 kilometres northwest of Karachi but near the sea. Studies started in 1988 with the knowledge of the Abu Dhabi government, Mr. Khan said. The dam would have a big enough reservoir to provide around 100 million gallons a day of water for export after meeting the needs of local farmers and sending some supplies to Karachi.

Quake in east Turkey causes damage

ANKARA (R) — A moderate earthquake shook eastern Turkey on Sunday damaging seven villages and killing farm animals as barns collapsed, Anatolia news agency said. The quake, measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale, destroyed two houses in the village of Kukurtil in Erzurum province and damaged buildings in six other nearby villages, it said. Livestock and poultry were killed when flimsy barns collapsed in some of the villages but there were no human casualties, gendarmerie police told Anatolia. The tremor occurred at 6.17 a.m. (0417 GMT). Earthquakes of between 4 and 5 on the Richter Scale are powerful enough to cause heavy damage in a populated area.

Swiss police bar Kurdish demonstrators

DAVOS (R) — Police stopped about 200 Kurds from reaching the Swiss ski resort of Davos on Saturday to demonstrate against the presence in the town of Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. The Kurds, travelling in cars from all over Switzerland, were turned back at Klosters, eight kilometres from Davos, where Ms. Ciller is attending the annual World Economic Forum. Police said the Kurds, whose cars bore banners saying "Ciller go home" and "don't finance the dirty war against the Kurdish people," were told a small delegation could drive on to Davos, but they rejected the offer.

Libya, Sudan to boost relations

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan's Vice President General Zuhair Mohammad Saleh held talks here Saturday with Libya's armed forces chief Colonel Abu Bakr Yunes Jaber on ways to boost bilateral relations. Sudanese state radio reported that the meeting touched on Khartoum's desire to improve relations with neighbouring countries. Sudan is locked in a dispute with Egypt over the Halabi border region. Meanwhile Eritrea broke off relations with Khartoum last December alleging Sudanese "subversive action" on its territory. Sudan and Libya in 1990 signed a cooperation agreement in the economic, political and cultural fields.

Adonis barred from Arab Writers Union

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Leading Arab author Adonis has been barred from the Arab Writers Union because of his support for normalisation with Israel, the official Syrian agency SANA reported. The union took the decision at its annual congress Friday in Damascus, the agency said. The meeting "raised the issue of normalisation with the Zionist enemy, rejected unanimously by the participants who decided to exclude the writer Adonis from the union because of his position favouring normalisation with Israel," Ali Ahmad Said, whose nom de plume is Adonis, is a Lebanese of Syrian origin who now lives in Paris. The 64-year-old author has played a key role in the development of modern Arab poetry and has written around 30 compilations of poems and essays as well as translating into Arabic the works of Saint John Perse. The Arab Writers Union president, Ali Akla Arsan, urged the association to "form a front of Arab writers and intellectuals to oppose cultural normalisation with the Zionist enemy," SANA said.

Egyptian woman arrested for marrying 4 men

CAIRO (AFP) — A young Egyptian woman arrested for having four husbands pleaded that she could not resist virile men, the Egyptian press reported Saturday. Leila, 30, was accused by her first husband, 80-year-old Mohammad Morsi, of abandoning him to marry another man. The police then discovered that she was married to three more men, each having no idea about the others' existence. Leila was arrested when she went into a police station in Cairo to claim a food pension from her first husband, newspapers reported. She explained that she abandoned her successive husbands "when they could no longer fulfill their marital obligations, and because she could not resist virile men," they said. Leila rejected adultery charges, saying "I marry the man I find appropriate, instead of sinning." Morsi said he was willing to forgive her because "she is an honest woman. Leila could face a 25-year prison sentence.

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) staff at the Amman-based Middle East and North Africa regional and area offices, the UNICEF Amman Staff Association (UASA) mourns the death of their Executive Director and Under Secretary General:

Dr. James P. Grant

who passed away in New York on Saturday January 28, at the age of 72. Mr. Grant is remembered for his dedication to the cause of children and his untiring efforts, even during his serious illness, to further his dream of creating a better world for children.

May God rest his soul in peace.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Cozcozes Minutes
17:30 Que Le Mielier Gagne
18:00 Scene De La Vie Des Dicoisseurs
18:30 Le Monde Fantastique Des Enfants
19:00 News In French
19:15 Magazine Sportif
19:30 Boogies Diner
20:00 Black Beauty
20:30 Street Hawk
21:00 Shades Of L.A.
22:00 News In English
22:30 Louisiana

PRAYER TIMES

05:07 Fajr
06:29 (Sunrise) Zuhra
11:00 Dhuhr
14:49 'Asr
17:51 Maghreb
18:30 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 64590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623540.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Skies will be partly cloudy with winds northerly moderate. In Amman, warm weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 5/15

Azraq 9/12

Deserts 3/17

Jordan Valley 9/20

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630461
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 821111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617011
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 653630
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 630800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 674667
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Rashid 896301
Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710
Dr. Fayez Dabbas 795135
Dr. Abies Al-Hakim 88496
Fayez pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 670555
Nasrallah pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsal pharmacy 637660
Nasrallah pharmacy 626672
Najib pharmacy 947632

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ali Al Omari 270352
Alqada pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shalim 995710
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre 813815/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity 644412
Malhas, J. Amman 643562
Palestine, Shamsal 664174
Shamsal Hospital 669131
University Hospital 849845
Al-Mashar Hospital 667277
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Indian, Al-Mashar 771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983523
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900580
Rm Sina Hospital (09)98732
Al Hkma Modern Hospital (09)99990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Sanaa (RJ)
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:40 New Delhi (RJ)
09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:10 Colombo, Tunis (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 Istanbul (TK)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
10:30 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
10:30 Sanaa (GF)
10:30 Kiy (GF)
10:30 Dubai (EK)
10:30 Amsterdam (KL)
02:35 London (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
08:45 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
10:00 London (RJ)
10:30 Frankfurt, London (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:45 Damascus (RJ)
21:25 Dubai, Mus

Kobe earthquake forces uneasy truce among Japan's parties

TOKYO (R) — The devastating Kobe earthquake has forced an uneasy truce on the Japanese parliament, giving Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama much-needed breathing space, commentators and political insiders said Sunday.

The Jan. 17 earthquake struck on the same day that a splinter group from Mr. Murayama's Socialists was to formally break from the party, a move that could have led to snap polls.

"The quake brought the internal disputes and political bickering to a sudden halt," political commentator Kenzo Uchida wrote in the Japan Times.

The earthquake "has virtually killed the possibility of an early general election being held sometime between January and March," Mr. Uchida said.

The biggest test for Mr. Murayama now is how quickly he can adopt measures to reconstruct the city of 1.5 million people. As of Sunday, the death toll from the 7.2 magnitude earthquake stood at 5,092.

The latest estimate of reconstruction grew beyond seven trillion yen (\$70 billion), according to the Hyogo Prefectural Hall Sunday. Kobe is the capital of Hyogo Prefecture.

Mr. Murayama's spokesman Kozo Igarashi said on a television talk show Sunday that "the government would adopt a package of emergency relief bills by Feb. 10."

On the programme, Mr. Igarashi was pitted against exhausted Kobe residents speaking from an evacuation centre.

"We don't want to hear these tired phrases like 'we will consider this' or 'we will study this'. We need measures right now, minister, right now," one middle-aged owner of a small factory that made shoes in the hard-hit Kobe borough of Nagata told Mr. Igarashi. His factory, employing 30 workers, was severely damaged.

The chorus of demands for food, temporary shelters, medical aid and money for reconstruction of homes, offices and factories has forced the newly formed opposition New Frontier Party into a dilemma.

The party cannot keep up its attack on the government when Mr. Murayama must first meet the demands from the estimated 300,000 people made homeless. Many have also lost their jobs.

One such scene came last Friday when veteran New Frontier lawmaker Yuuichi Ichikawa threatened a boycott of parliament proceedings over Mr. Murayama's constitutional definition of the post-war military. But Mr. Ichikawa backed down from his threat.

"We cannot afford to boycott the session," an aide quoted Mr. Ichikawa as telling a party caucus during a break Friday. "We, ourselves, could come under fire for delaying disaster re-

lief measures."

Until the earthquake, New Frontier leader Toshiki Kaifu was bent on launching an assault against Mr. Murayama's unwieldy coalition of his Socialists, their cold war foes the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and small allies, the New Sakigake Party.

Mr. Kaifu's goal was to force Mr. Murayama to step down and make him call early general elections.

But after the earthquake, Mr. Kaifu himself has ordered a halt to a move by young New Frontier lawmakers to collect signatures demanding Mr. Murayama's resignation.

"It's too early for that kind of extreme move," parliamentary sources quoted Mr. Kaifu as telling them.

For nearly 18 months since the general election in July 1993, political parties have been embroiled in bitter infighting and mass defections. During that time, Japan saw three new prime ministers come and go.

With the earthquake, the focus has shifted on just what governments are for, the welfare of the people, rather than political realignment, lawmakers said.

"Now is not a time for political struggles," LDP President and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono told a rally Saturday. "We must enact the state budget as soon as possible, stabilise politics and calm down society in gener-

al."

Mr. Murayama does not have to dissolve the 511-member lower house for general elections until 1997.

Meanwhile 66 per cent of Japanese fear a big new earthquake in their own area, and a majority are critical of the government's response to the Kobe disaster, a poll conducted for the Asahi newspaper said Sunday.

According to a nationwide poll, 84 per cent of respondents said the damage from the Kobe quake on Jan. 17, was bigger than thought. The quake is reported to have killed more than 5,000 people, destroying nearly 100,000 buildings.

The newspaper contacted 2,000 people on Jan. 27 and 28, with 1,200 valid responses. The poll showed 53 per cent of respondents were critical of the government's response to the nation's worst disaster since World War II.

Only 39 per cent approved the government's handling of the crisis.

Asked about specific problems in the government's response, 41 per cent cited "inadequacy" in rescue and relief operations.

Nearly a fifth of the respondents pointed to "poor leadership" by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

While 21 per cent of those polled said they had begun preparing for big earthquakes since the Kobe disaster, 56 per cent said they had not begun any particular preparation.



Brazilian rescue workers look through the remains of a collapsed six-story apartment building in the resort of Guaratuba 800km south of Rio De Janeiro near the city of Curitiba. At least six people were reported dead and 20 trapped. A construction crew was working on the building to reinforce the structure at the time of the collapse, a police official said (AFP photo)

At least 6 dead and 20 trapped after building collapses in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — A six-story apartment building collapsed Saturday in a southern resort town, killing at least six people and leaving more than 20 trapped in the rubble.

"We can hear the screams of many people, including a group of small children that was playing under the building when it collapsed," police Sgt. Ver Dasca told the Associated Press.

He said crews, supported by four helicopters and several cranes, had rescued seven people so far and were responding to the shouts of others. They recovered six bodies.

The building in Guaratuba, 500 miles (800 kms) south of Rio De Janeiro, collapsed suddenly at 10:30 a.m.

Sgt. Dasca said a construction crew was working in the building at the time to reinforce the structure after residents had reported several cracks in the concrete base.

"The crew heard a boom and ran out immediately," he said. "The whole building came down in 30 seconds."

Police had earlier said that about 50 people were in the building at the time it collapsed, but they later reduced

the estimate.

Sgt. Dasca said 14 apartments in the building in the trendy centre of Guaratuba were rented by vacationers from the nearby city of Curitiba.

Sgt. Dasca said 100 police and fire officials were working on the rescue with the help of several hundred citizens, including friends and family of those under the rubble.

The Parana state government is sending airplanes and helicopters to help transport the injured and Gov. Jaime Lerner has flown to the scene to offer the state's financial and technical support.

Meanwhile, an explosion in a fireworks store killed at least 12 people, injured more than 25 and razed half a city block on the outskirts of Sao Paulo, South America's biggest city Saturday.

The explosion, which occurred when three tons of fireworks were being unloaded from a van in front of the store, was so strong that it levelled a bank, a post office, a drug store and several small shops.

Police said more bodies could be underneath the rubble.

Sobbing on top of a pile to

rubble, one man told reporters he was alive because a few minutes before the explosion he had taken his grandson for a walk.

"I heard the explosion and rushed back. When I reached what was left of my house I heard someone moaning. I helped pull out my son, my daughter and a granddaughter," he said. The daughter and granddaughter died later in a hospital.

The explosion destroyed dozens of cars in the commercial district and showered glass and concrete shards within 200 metres of the fireworks store, which also specialised in Afro-Brazilian religious artifacts.

Several hundred rescuers and doctors from five hospitals rushed to help the survivors, many of them in critical condition. An eight-month-old baby died in the explosion.

Using cranes, bulldozers and their bare hands, they sifted through the tons of wreckage and debris searching for victims.

Several survivors called for greater restrictions on fireworks, commonly used on virtually any holiday in Brazil.

Rangoon prepares assault on rebels

BANGKOK (AFP) — Burmese troops appeared poised Sunday to attack the final stronghold of Karen separatist guerrillas, prompting hundreds of villagers to flee into Thailand, Thai border police and relief workers said.

Sporadic rifle fire has been heard near the Kawmoora Mountain camp of the Karen National Union (KNU) since midday Saturday (0500 GMT), an official with the Thai Border Patrol Police in Saiyok district told AFP by phone.

Government troops were reportedly preparing for a fresh offensive after successfully storming the headquarters of the KNU and Burma's self-declared opposition alliance at Manerplaw Friday.

That attack drove hundreds of KNU fighters into the northern jungle, but not before they set Manerplaw ablaze to destroy anything that might be of value to government forces.

An official with Thai Border Patrol Unit 337 across from Manerplaw added that the rebels had traded in their uniforms, dressing as villagers to blend in with other refugees.

They were believed to have regrouped in the hills 150 kilometres to the north, he said.

Meanwhile, some 4,000 Karens — mostly women and children — have fled Manerplaw, crossing the Moel River into Thailand's Sog Moei district where they were being sheltered, a relief worker said.

Fearing a full-scale assault after the fall of Manerplaw, some 300 to 400 ethnic Karen and Burmese villagers have also fled Kawmoora to Thailand, 15 kilometres away, according to the Saiyok border official.

They were being housed at a school in Saiyok district on the Thai border, he added. Kawmoora, a military camp 450 kilometres (270 miles) south of Manerplaw, has been reportedly surrounded by 2,000 Rangoon soldiers since last week, though fighting has been restricted to isolated skirmishes, he said.

There have been no reliable reports of casualties suffered at Manerplaw, though relief workers and Thai border unit sources said losses appeared heavy on both sides.

Press reports Sunday said that the government has handed Manerplaw over to a newly-formed splinter group called the Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organisation (DKBO), comprising former KNU Buddhists, opposed to the Christian leadership.

Karen state was also officially renamed Kayin state, the reports said.

Mandela appoints white as new S. Africa police head

PRETORIA (R) — President Nelson Mandela appointed a white police general, George Fivaz, as South Africa's new police commissioner Sunday.

"I have every confidence that General Fivaz will lead the transformation of the police service," Mr. Mandela, flanked by police generals, including Gen. Fivaz, told a news conference in Pretoria.

"I would like to appeal to all members of the police service to join together in support of the new leadership. What is needed is to create a healthy labour environment," the president said.

Urging a swift end to labour disputes in the post-apartheid police, Mr. Mandela said negotiations should be conducted in a positive spirit.

"Striking members are expected to assist this process. 'Labour disputes must never be allowed to compromise the police service,'" he said, referring to a clash between striking police and riot police in Soweto township Friday in which a striker was killed and four policemen were wounded.

Gen. Fivaz, at 49 the country's youngest police commissioner, told reporters the transformation of the police service had to be urgently addressed.

"It is crucial that policing issues must be addressed with extreme urgency and it is

important that the police service make a clean break with the past," he said.

Gen. Fivaz said among priority issues was the improvement of methods to combat soaring crime, enhancing community relations and the removal of all forms of racism and discrimination in the police.

Outgoing Police Commissioner Johan Van Der Merwe is due to hang up his hat in March, along with several other top officers who are retiring for medical reasons.

Gen. Fivaz, formerly head of Efficiency Services and one of three police generals on an interim advisory team to Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, is considered progressive.

"Even though he is not very senior, he is known to be very progressive and is also close to the minister," a policing analyst told Reuters.

Political analysts said Gen. Fivaz would urgently need to restore police morale and restore its credibility among black communities which perceived the force of old as apartheid's enforcement arm.

The headline Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (POPCRU), whose members were involved in Friday's Soweto clash, has threatened more strikes and protests to force Mr. Mandela's ruling African National Congress to deliver on promises to root out racism in the force.

Allied PoWs lay wreath at Japanese war memorial

TOKYO (R) — Former allied prisoners of war joined their enemies of half a century ago Sunday to lay wreaths at Japan's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"It's a solemn business and something I never thought I'd do," said Briton Arthur Titherington, who was a prisoner of the Japanese army for 3½ years in World War II, mostly in a work camp in Taiwan.

"It was very traumatic. I regret to say I cried," he said.

Two Britons, an Australian and an American, all interned in Japanese prison camps during World War II, carried poppy wreaths to the memorial — a hexagonal roofed shrine overlooking the imperial palace and decorated with yellow, mauve and white chrysanthemums.

The former PoWs seemed to have good relations with the Japanese veterans, and said they had been frank about the brutality meted out to allied prisoners during war.

"We've met the enemy and there's been no trouble," said Sid Tavender, who was forced to work on the Burma-Siam "death" railway. "They've admitted the crimes were committed. This is what we want."

Their fight now is with the Japanese government, which

has been reluctant to recognise the darker events of its war. Mr. Tetherington is representing an organisation of former PoWs pressing it for compensation for the malnutrition, forced labour, beatings and minor forms of torture they suffered.

Tokyo says the issue of compensation was dealt with finally under the 1951 San Francisco Treaty, when British PoWs were awarded 76 pounds 50 pence (\$122 at today's exchange rate).

However, on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, and as Japan tries to become accepted in a bigger role in the world, there is increasing pressure on it to come to terms with its past atrocities.

On Monday, the group plans to bring a case to the Tokyo district court claiming \$22,000 each, an amount based on the sum the U.S. government awarded Japanese-Americans in 1988 as compensation for their internment in camps.

Apart from issues of principles, Japan is worried yielding to the demands of some groups could lead to an endless string of claims from victims of brutality, most of whom were Asians.

"I don't know the size of their budget," said Mr. Titherington.

U.S. is prepared to offer arms to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — The United States is willing to supply weapons to Cambodia if the armed forces continue a reform programme, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said Sunday.

Mr. Talbott said the proposal to provide weapons had not been opposed by King Norodom Sihanouk, whom he met earlier Sunday.

"I think that we and he are very much in accord on both the level and nature of American assistance to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces," said Mr. Talbott at the end of a two-day visit to the country.

Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord said the Americans had noted reforms already undertaken by Cambodia's armed forces.

These included deep cuts reduction in the number of officers in an army that once had more than 2,000 generals. Mr. Lord said he believed this figure had been reduced to a "couple of hundred."

Clinton, Republicans debate federal welfare role

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton and Republicans agreed Saturday that states should have more flexibility in spending welfare dollars but parted ways on how much oversight the federal government should have.

The development emerged from a nearly five-hour working session on ways to reform the U.S. welfare system that Mr. Clinton held with Republican and Democratic members of Congress, state governors and local officials.

All agreed, as Florida Republican Representative Clay Shaw said afterward, that the current welfare system largely controlled by the federal government is "totally out of whack" and "doing more harm than good right now."

Differences emerged over plans Republicans are working on in the House and leaders of the National Governors' Association are discussing that would give states the power to develop their own welfare systems with money supplied by Washington but with few strings attached.

"I believe as it came out today there is an enormous difference in peoples' view as to how much discretion states should have versus the federal government," said Colorado Republican Sen. Hank Brown at a briefing after the session.

"I don't know if it's resolvable but I think you're going to see that to be the focus of the battle," he said.

Said White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta: "There is a debate and no agreement."

Democrats concerned that states would leave some poor people, young mothers and children out in the cold want the federal government to set some standard requirements as a safety net.

Of particular concern is a Republican proposal to bar unwed mothers under age 18 from receiving welfare in an attempt to slow down the number of teen pregnancies.

The main U.S. welfare programme, aid to families with dependent children, pays an average of \$365 a month for a mother and two children.

"We shouldn't cut people off just because they're poor or young or unmarried," Mr. Clinton told reporters before the meeting started. "We should promote responsibility by requiring young mothers to live at home in proper supervised settings and to finish school."

"But we shouldn't put them or their children out on the street," he said.

Mr. Shaw, chairman of the key House Ways and Means Subcommittee writing reform legislation, said he would be in a position to open committee hearings in a matter of weeks.

Participants on both sides of the aisle said the meeting was singular for its civility after the partisan battles of recent weeks since Republicans took command of the House and Senate after land-

mark Nov. 8 elections.

"It was a terrific discussion," said Vice President Al Gore. "We identified some areas where agreement is still eluding us, but we all recognise the work that needs to be done."

The reform challenge is big, fuelled by an explosion of teen pregnancies. In 1993, 14.2 million people received money through the aid to families with dependent children programme, compared to 11.1 million in 1975.

The system costs state and federal budgets more than \$22 billion a year, and many states have already been experimenting with ways to save money after obtaining waivers from federal regulations.

Critics say the system has gotten to the point where it rewards some people for not getting a job. Both parties said welfare reform should include a limit on how long people can receive benefits.

Said Mr. Clinton: "I know that most people who are trapped on welfare will gladly take the work options if we can work out the system in the proper way."

But by staging the meeting, Mr. Clinton was trying to keep an ear in the debate and avoid standing on the sidelines as Republicans take control of the issue.

"I think it is perhaps the most pressing social problem we face in our country and the time has come for Congress to act," said Mr. Clinton, who touted himself as an

expert on the problem.

Mr. Clinton's welfare last year played second fiddle to his failed health care reform effort, and died.

Meanwhile, a House committee approved measures that would require criminals to compensate their victims and allow unlawfully seized evidence to be considered in more instances.

Freshman Rep. Sonny Bono of California accused Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee of playing "relentless games" on the issue of police warrants and searches, as Republicans began their push to rewrite the \$30 billion anti-crime law enacted last year.

The committee also adopted an amendment to a criminal alien deportation bill that would require the federal government to pay the cost of such deportations. The amendment, introduced by Rep. Howard Berman from California, gained the support of seven Republicans on the committee from states such as California, Florida and Illinois with large immigrant populations.

With a sole dissenting vote, the 35 Judiciary Committee members voted to send the compensation bill to the full House. It would require criminals to pay full restitution to their victims for all damages resulting from the crime.

The compensation would include expenses incurred by the victim during a trial, such as lost income, child care and transportation.

Singer Rita Pavone eyes U.S. markets

BUDAPEST (AFP) — Italian singer and actress Rita Pavone aims to conquer the U.S. music market with a double CD due out soon, she said in Budapest before attending a high-profile ball Saturday. Pavone, who lives in Switzerland with music producer and Italian restaurant-owner Teddy Reno, was to go on from Hungary to Spain, where she said she is preparing another new album containing disco and techno songs. The star guest of Saturday's Budapest ball was due to sing old and new hits live at Budapest's Opera House.

3 arrested for selling dinosaur eggs

SHANGHAI (AFP) — Police in Shanghai's Jingan district have arrested three men for selling 16 fossilised dinosaur eggs to a Hong Kong company, a newspaper reported Sunday. The Liberation Daily reported that the men identified as Zhuang, Yang and Xu were arrested as they were about to hand over the eggs on Dec. 25 after sealing the deal earlier in the month for 450,000 yuan (\$53,500). The report said Zhuang bought the eggs in Henan province two years ago for 7,000 yuan and had been keeping them for his own enjoyment until last year when he discovered that the price of dinosaur eggs on the black market had risen. The eggs are protected antiquities.

Several hundred rescuers and doctors from five hospitals rushed to help the survivors, many of them in critical condition. An eight-month-old baby died in the explosion.

Using cranes, bulldozers and their bare hands, they sifted through the tons of wreckage and debris searching for victims.

Several survivors called for greater restrictions on fireworks, commonly used on virtually any holiday in Brazil.

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World

BUDAPEST (AFP) — Italian singer and actress Rita Pavone aims to conquer the U.S. music market with a double CD due out soon, she said in Budapest before attending a high-profile ball Saturday. Pavone, who lives in Switzerland with music producer and Italian restaurant-owner Teddy Reno, was to go on from Hungary to Spain, where she said she is preparing another new album containing disco and techno songs. The star guest of Saturday's Budapest ball was due to sing old and new hits live at Budapest's Opera House.

The quake brought the internal disputes and political bickering to a sudden halt," political commentator Kenzo Uchida wrote in the Japan Times.

The earthquake "has virtually killed the possibility of an early general election being held sometime between January and March," Mr. Uchida said.

The biggest test for Mr. Murayama now is how quickly he can adopt measures to reconstruct the city of 1.5 million people. As of Sunday, the death toll from the 7.2 magnitude earthquake stood at 5,092.

The latest estimate of reconstruction grew beyond seven trillion yen (\$70 billion), according to the Hyogo Prefectural Hall Sunday. Kobe is the capital of Hyogo Prefecture.

Mr. Murayama's spokesman Kozo Igarashi said on a television talk show Sunday that "the government would adopt a package of emergency relief bills by Feb. 10."

On the programme, Mr. Igarashi was pitted against exhausted Kobe residents speaking from an evacuation centre.

"We don't want to hear these tired phrases like 'we will consider this' or 'we will study this'. We need measures right now, minister, right now," one middle-aged owner of a small factory that made shoes in the hard-hit Kobe borough of Nagata told Mr. Igarashi. His factory, employing 30 workers, was severely damaged.

The chorus of demands for food, temporary shelters, medical aid and money for reconstruction of homes, offices and factories has forced the newly formed opposition New Frontier Party into a dilemma.

The party cannot keep up its attack on the government when Mr. Murayama must first meet the demands from the estimated 300,000 people made homeless. Many have also lost their jobs.

One such scene came last Friday when veteran New Frontier lawmaker Yuuichi Ichikawa threatened a boycott of parliament proceedings over Mr. Murayama's constitutional definition of the post-war military. But Mr. Ichikawa backed down from his threat.

"We cannot afford to boycott the session," an aide quoted Mr. Ichikawa as telling a party caucus during a break Friday. "We, ourselves, could come under fire for delaying disaster re-

Singer Rita Pavone eyes U.S. market

BUDAPEST (AP) — Italian singer and actress Rita Pavone aims to capture the U.S. music market with a double CD due out next month. Pavone, 47, is attending a high-profile concert in Switzerland on Saturday. She is a producer and restaurant-owner in Reno, was in the 1960s and 1970s, and is now a new album coming out. She is also a guest of Saturday's ball was due to her new hits live at the Opera House.

3 arrested for selling dinosaur eggs

SHANGHAI (AP) — Police in Shanghai arrested three men for selling 16 dinosaur eggs to a Hong Kong company, a newspaper reported Sunday. The men were arrested after a tip-off from a local resident. The eggs were found in a garden in the city. The men were charged with selling illegal goods. The eggs were found in a garden in the city. The men were charged with selling illegal goods.

More drugs wash up on French beach

BORDEAUX, France — More bags of washed up on the beach of Bordeaux, France, following the seizure of a large quantity of drugs. The drugs were found in a bag on the beach. The drugs were found in a bag on the beach. The drugs were found in a bag on the beach.

Cher starts catalogue for specialty item

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cher is looking for a specialty item for her new catalogue. She is looking for a specialty item for her new catalogue. She is looking for a specialty item for her new catalogue. She is looking for a specialty item for her new catalogue.

Indonesia to tighten sale of alcoholic drinks

JAKARTA (AP) — Indonesian government is planning to tighten the sale of alcoholic drinks. The government is planning to tighten the sale of alcoholic drinks. The government is planning to tighten the sale of alcoholic drinks. The government is planning to tighten the sale of alcoholic drinks.



Onlookers watch the high waters of the river Rhine from Cologne's Deutz Bridge after the rising Rhine flooded the old part of the city. Large parts of northwest Europe were

under water as rivers rose under the pressure of heavy rains (AFP photo)

Rhine floods expected to reach record levels

BONN (Agencies) — Flood levels on the Rhine are expected to reach record levels Sunday as steady rain showed no sign of abating and water lapped at the first floor windows of the buildings in the old town of Cologne, in western Germany. Experts said the swollen waters were likely soon to rise above the record levels set around Christmas 1993, with the situation set to remain critical until the middle of the week at least. Cologne, a city of about one million inhabitants, suffered considerable damage in the 1993 floods. 3,000 soldiers were placed on alert around the city, with pontoon bridges set up at many points. Thousands of people lined the banks and bridges along the river hoping to catch a

glimpse of the inexorable rise of the waters, and police set up roadblocks to allow only the customers of bars and restaurants through and keep bystanders away. The situation was critical in other areas of the country despite the promise by weather forecasters of a break in the rainfall. The Main and Mosel rivers were continuing to rise and many parts of Koblenz, where the Mosel empties into the Rhine, were affected by flooding. Meanwhile rising rivers forced hundreds more people from homes and a hospital in northern France after heavy rain flooded many European cities, authorities said Sunday. At least six people were reported missing and one



General view of a farm near Pont-de-Buis, Brittany, in France, after it was flooded region during the past week (AFP photo)

Reformer reelected to head Germany's PDS

BERLIN (AFP) — Heirs to the former East Germany's Communist Party have reelected a reformer to head their Democratic Socialist Party (PDS) but stopped short of rejecting communist after fierce debate fought with party hardliners. Lothar Bisky, a 53-year-old academic specialising in communication sciences, was the only candidate running for president of the PDS, whose party congress was due to wind up Sunday. An overwhelming 82.8 per cent of the delegates meeting in the German capital voted Saturday night to give him another two-year term.

Only 51 delegates voted against Mr. Bisky compared with 317 in favour and 15 abstentions. Delegates Friday night had adopted a motion "irrevocably" pledging never to return to Stalinism. The statement by the PDS, formerly the Socialist Unity Party of East Germany, said dictatorship and centralisation had no place in the party's future. But the "Communist Platform" led by 25-year-old Sarah Wagenknecht, a philosophy student, persuaded delegates not to officially adopt a more wide-ranging anti-Communist position or

French politicians rush to back Balladur

PARIS (Agencies) — French politicians, eager to share spoils of victory, rushed to pledge allegiance this weekend to Prime Minister Edouard Balladur who looks unstoppable with France's presidential election less than three months away. With opinion polls showing the prime minister likely to beat any opponent by margins of around 60-40 per cent, support poured in for Mr. Balladur while the position of chief rival Jacques Chirac looked increasingly gloomy. Cooperation Minister Bernard Debré, a Balladur ally, called on Mr. Chirac Sunday to withdraw from the race to avoid further splits in the Rally for the Republic (RPR) Gaullist party which Mr. Chirac heads and Mr. Balladur belongs to. Mr. Balladur's rise was best demonstrated when he attended a meeting of several hundred RPR parliamentarians and officials Saturday who pledged support to him rather than Mr. Chirac. Aides to Interior Minister Charles Pasqua who organised the meeting initially expected 400 to 500 top RPR

members. Reporters on the spot later said it looked as though about 900 showed up, and Mr. Pasqua was hoping to trade in his influence for the prime minister's post after the April 23-May 7 election. Candidates for the premiership abounded including Defence Minister Francois Leotard of the centre-right Republican Party (PR) which solidly fell in behind Mr. Balladur at their national council in Lyon, also Saturday. Specialists had predicted Mr. Balladur would get 80 per cent of backing from the PR where Charles Millon, until recently an influential party leader, had hoped to launch his own candidacy. But the 2,201 delegates gave Mr. Balladur a resounding 93.36 per cent with 4.1 choosing to support Mr. Chirac and only two per cent backing Mr. Millon. No one even mentioned former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing who until over a year ago was widely expected to be candidate of the non-Gaullist centre-right in the election.

Ecuador-Peru fighting rages on as death toll is set at 23

QUITO (AFP) — Battles raged for a third straight day between Ecuadorian and Peruvian troops Saturday in a long disputed Amazon border zone, as officials said the fighting had claimed at least 23 lives. International mediation efforts continued in the dispute, with Organisation of American States Secretary General Cesar Gaviria visiting both capitals in a bid to initiate a dialogue and ease tensions.



A truck transports Peruvian troops to the border with Ecuador in Tumbes, Peru. Troops continue to deploy as clashes with Ecuadorian soldiers continue over a border dispute (AFP photo)

Ecuador began calling up reservists born in 1973 and 1974, but even before the appeal reached local media, hundreds of volunteers were coming forward, officials said. Defence officials in Quito said more troops, equipment, munitions and materials were being transported to the conflict zone in accordance with a state of emergency declared Friday. Hundreds of residents were fleeing the region in anticipation of an escalation, officials said. In Lima, President Alberto Fujimori said following a two-hour meeting with Mr. Gaviria that Peru was acting in "legitimate self-defence" and that forces were defending Peru's border with Ecuador. Mr. Fujimori acknowledged that there had been "a few skirmishes" between Ecuadorian and Peruvian troops in the Cordillera Del Condor region. The Peruvian president earlier said while visiting the border town of Tumbes that neither the United Nations nor the OAS were competent to intervene in the crisis. Ecuadorian Colonel Pablo Viteri, commander of the 17 Pastaza Jungle Brigade, told AFP that at least 20 Peruvians and three Ecuadorians had been killed Thursday in

the first day of fighting in the unmarked stretch of border along the Condor Mountain range. Col. Viteri also said the Ecuadorians took a number of Peruvian prisoners, but did not give an exact number. The Joint Armed Forces Command in Quito said Ecuador had repelled a squadron of Peruvian warplanes Saturday in the Pacific coastal province of El Oro, without any shots being fired. It was the first reported incident involving air forces since Thursday's clash that led both sides to reinforce their borders. Ecuador also reported more clashes around the border town of La Cueva De Los Tallos. A military official in Lima

countries late Friday issued a plea for dialogue and offered to help broker a settlement. At the United Nations, the U.N. Security Council was summoned for emergency consultations on the situation by Argentina, which holds the council presidency for January. But the meeting was postponed until Sunday, diplomats said. Mr. Duran Ballen declared a national state of emergency and military mobilisation Friday after a series of clashes with Peru. Lima newspapers, citing military sources, said Peruvian forces clashed at least twice Friday with "infiltrating" Ecuadorian troops near the Cenepea River. According to the Peruvian press accounts, Peruvian Mi-8 and Mi-17 helicopters attacked Ecuadorian positions with rockets. Peru and Ecuador have disputed the oil- and mineral-rich region along their border for more than 50 years, with the last major outbreak of fighting occurring in 1981. The latest troubles began with Peruvian reports that an Ecuadorian helicopter attacked a border post inside Peru late Thursday, and Ecuadorian charges that Peruvian troops attacked forces inside its territory the same day. There had been two incidents earlier this month in the remote mountainous area on the edge of the Amazon basin. After a nearly year-long war between the two countries in 1941, Peru and Ecuador signed a peace treaty delimiting their borders. But Quito renounced the 1942 Rio De Janeiro Protocol in 1960, arguing that it had been pressured into signing and that the protocol contained geographical errors.

Bosnia tensions rise as peace efforts stall

SARAJEVO (R) — Rising tension between Bosnia's warring factions and more harassment of U.N. peacekeepers have deepened in tandem with deadlock in international peace efforts, United Nations officials and diplomats said Sunday. The five-nation "contact group" which suspended its mission to Bosnia at the weekend has no firm idea of how to overcome its biggest stumbling block — the Bosnian Serbs' refusal to accept the latest peace plan — diplomatic sources told Reuters. The contact group, comprised of officials from the United States, Russia, Britain, Germany and France, had been trying to persuade the Serbs to accept a peace plan that calls on them to give up a third of the territory

they now hold in Bosnia. The Bosnian Serbs insist they cannot ignore the results of a referendum last summer in which their people overwhelmingly rejected the plan, which divides Bosnia roughly in half between the Serbs and a Muslim-Croat alliance. The Muslim-led Bosnian government has accepted the plan and rejects Serb efforts to treat it as simply a basis for further haggling over territory. A source familiar with the negotiations said the Serbs were using the referendum as an excuse not to compromise and described their explanation as "disingenuous". The political vacuum left by the deadlock in the peace process has brought a rise in tension across Bosnia, with no let-up in fighting in the northwestern Bihać enclave. There have also been cease-

fire violations in Sarajevo. U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said 66 artillery shell impacts had been reported in the past 24 hours in the Bihać enclave around the town of Velika Kladusa. In Sarajevo, three explosions were reported at about midnight Saturday in the city centre which the U.N. said might have been rifle-propelled grenades. The source of fire was under investigation. In the Muslim-held eastern enclave of Srebrenica, Bosnian army troops were blocking 75 Dutch U.N. peacekeepers from returning to their base, Mr. Ivanko said. The Dutch were investigating a recent encroachment by the Serbs in the eastern edge of the enclave. Mr. Ivanko said it was possible the Bosnian army



Brigadier Robert Gordon (left) briefs new UNPROFOR commander Lt. Gen. Rupert Smith on the latest developments in Sector South West. Gen. Smith has just taken over from Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose and was visiting his command's Rear Headquarters at Split (AFP photo)

Rift over Europe deepens in British ruling party

LONDON (R) — An acrimonious rift over European integration deepened Sunday as the ruling Conservatives argued over Britain's patchy marriage with the continent. Like the nation as a whole, the British government is sorely split over what power member states should cede to European Union (EU) authorities. With the isolationists apparently gaining ground, a leading Conservative warned Prime Minister John Major that he was mishandling the issue just as a top Eurosceptic trumpeted a shift in the cabinet's stance. "There has been a clarification," said Employment Secretary Michael Portillo when asked about his government's increasingly comba-

tive line towards Europe. "There is (now) no difference between me and the rest of the cabinet. There is no difference between me and the majority of the Conservative Party," Mr. Portillo told Sky News from an international economic conference in Switzerland. Such claims of harmony aside, the internal divisions over European policy are rife. And they come as a new poll showed Britons are in a rush to move closer to the bloc and don't want to abandon their currency for a money common to all EU members. The Harris poll conducted for BBC Television showed that 55 per cent of the 1,000 people questioned opposed the idea of a single currency by 1997. Only 31 per cent favoured the idea, which is backed by European Commission President Jacques Santer. Mr. Santer's wholehearted embrace of EU integration has pushed Mr. Major onto a collision course — either with the EU authorities or within his own party at home. And it is the anti-federalist wing of Mr. Major's party that increasingly holds sway, as whispering campaigns rumble around leading Europeanists like Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Sir Edward Heath, a former Conservative prime minister and strong advocate of an integrated Europe, criticised the budding anti-Europe momentum and said

Mr. Hurd had no plans to leave office. "What we're doing is attacking everybody else in the union. Some people believe we can change the whole thing to something which is just a get-together and nothing more," he told BBC Television's Breakfast With Frost show. "This isn't going to happen and if we try it, we do ourselves even more damage," he said. Already, the party is paying the price for its divisions. Nine Conservative politicians have left the parliamentary party in a row over Britain's contribution to the EU budget, and are fiercely resisting any new loss of sovereignty to Brussels.

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Way is clear ahead

NOW THAT Sharif Zeid's third government has won Parliament's vote of confidence, the road has been paved for the executive team to carry out its main task of steering Jordan into the new post-peace era. Following the signing of a peace treaty with Israel and the thaw in Arab relations that culminated in the signing of several agreements with the Palestine National Authority, Sharif Zeid's government, guided by His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation, its own statement on intent and deputies' demands, can embark on the ambitious scheme of transforming Jordan into a model of prosperity and a beacon for the other Arab countries to emulate in democracy and respect of human rights.

We cannot but notice that the debate of the last two days in the Lower House of Parliament has shown a mature House that reflected in many ways the aspirations of the people at large. Though people's immediate concerns are poverty, unemployment and the rising cost of living, most recognise that democracy, respect for the Constitution and the rule of law, respect for human rights and clean government are all essential tools for the transformation of the country into a modern state.

All indications point to the certainty that this government will take the Kingdom to the next elections scheduled for the fall of 1997. From now until then a great deal of work and reform can be accomplished through the joint effort of government and legislature. In this vein, the government needs to draw, as we are sure it will, on the experience and goodwill of the deputies, be them on its side or in the opposition.

The agenda of the new government is therefore full. It includes in addition to the enormous task of managing Jordan's relations with Palestinians, Arabs, Israelis and the rest of the world, and the much-called for and awesome task of reforming the country's political, economic and managerial systems.

Whether on the internal or external fronts, the government mostly needs to mobilise the whole country into one national effort to achieve the goals set by the leadership and aspired by the people.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour Sunday expressed deep concern over the situation on the Saudi-Yemeni border noting that statements coming out of Sanaa and Riyadh have been conflicting. Saleh Qallab said that while a Yemeni delegation was reported holding reconciliation talks in Riyadh, he heard about Saudi massing of troops along the border. There were also conflicting statements between the Yemeni president and the head of the Yemeni delegation in Riyadh. Abdullah Al Ahmar, which tend to confuse the situation further, said the writer. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's sudden decision to visit Damascus Sunday points to obstacles in the path of a settlement between Saudi Arabia and Yemen at a time when the Yemeni military commanders describe the situation along the border as serious. The writer said that Yemen which has just come out from a devastating civil war should take every possible measure to defuse tension. Saudi Arabia ought also to avoid any move that could trigger a conflict and plunge the Arabian peninsula in a cycle of violence, added the writer. He said that internal Arab divisions pose the most serious threat to the Arab Nation.

AHMAD MISLEH, a columnist for Al Ra'i, Sunday called for the creation of a special United Nations fund to handle the sales of Iraqi oil for the purpose of financing Iraq's food and medical needs. Mistleh said that the Iraqis have displayed all cooperation and flexibility in dealing with the United Nations and the inspectors who searched and destroyed Iraqi mass destruction weapons, and therefore the Iraqis should be dealing directly with the United Nations and not with the United States which has demanded that oil sales should be handled by American officials and oil companies. The writer said that the United Nations is quite eligible of handling the oil sales and deducting 30 per cent of the revenues for war reparations, keeping the rest for the Iraqi needs of food and medicine. The time has come for the world community, said the writer, to take appropriate measures to save the Iraqi people from their sufferings.

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

The executive order and the rights of Arab and Muslim Americans

ON JANUARY 24, 1995, U.S. President Bill Clinton issued an executive order which has generated significant unease among Arab-Americans and American-Muslims. The order is entitled "Prohibiting Transactions with Terrorists who Threaten to Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process." It is viewed with concern because of the perceived danger it could pose to civil and political rights in this country.

One Arab-American leader noted that if the purpose of the order were specifically designed to outlaw groups which carry out violent actions against civilians and to prohibit U.S. citizens and residents from joining or directly financing such activity, that would be acceptable. But, the leader continued, "the order as it is written can be interpreted quite loosely by U.S. law enforcement agencies who may, in their efforts at enforcing it, catch innocent U.S. citizens in their web. That could pose a real danger to legitimate political rights."

The Clinton administration has been under pressure from a wide range of sources to stop the flow of support for Middle East terrorist activities which allegedly comes from the U.S. Most notably, Israel and pro-Israel U.S. Jewish groups have been waging a campaign to identify U.S. opponents of the peace with an international network of "Islamic fundamentalist funding for terrorism against Israel."

Two years ago, following Israel's expulsion of the alleged Hamas supporters in December of 1992, I wrote about a campaign waged by these same sources. That campaign was centred on the Israeli charge that the funding and organising of the Islamic opposition in the West Bank and Gaza was directed from the U.S.

The bombing of New York's World Trade Centre in 1993 played right into the hands of Israel by legitimising its campaign in the eyes of some in the media. Within weeks of the bombing, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited the U.S. and, speaking before a New York audience said, "so now you know what it's like (to suffer terrorist attacks)." Some U.S. Jewish groups joined the campaign, as did a number of U.S. media personalities.

This campaign caused some panic in the American Muslim community. Hitherto virtually unknown to the U.S. public and unrecognised by the U.S. media, the Muslim community in this country suddenly became the topic of press coverage — not for their contributions as citizens or for their piety, but for their "possible links" to international terrorism.

Their campaign has continued. One Jewish group, the American Jewish Committee (AJC), issued a "policy and action plan on international terrorism" in December of 1994. In part, the plan says: "private terrorist groups, from whatever source, must be interdicted by governments committed to the fight against terrorism; in the United States and other countries, fund-raisers and propagandists for Hamas, Hezbollah and other militant Islamic extremist groups must be identified and, to the extent permitted by law, their activities shut down."

In pursuit of this objective, the AJC plan "urges the president to issue a national security directive setting forth a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy and to assure that his statements about the urgency of the threat posed by terrorism are heeded throughout the government;" and "through multiple media, educate and inform the American public about the universality of the threat of militant Islamic extremism, to keep terrorism a central issue, of public concern until this scourge no longer exists."

Not only were Israel and U.S. Jewish groups behind this effort to cut alleged U.S. ties to Islamic opposition groups, but several Arab governments and some in the Palestinian leadership became involved as well. They were concerned, on the one hand, with what they considered "confusing aspects" of U.S. behaviour towards Islamic opposition groups, and also by verified reports of substantial wire transfers of funds to these groups emanating from third countries, passing through U.S. banks and then ending up in their countries.

One point needs to be made clear. Wire transfer of funds from other countries are one thing, but to allege that Arab-Americans and American Muslim groups are involved in funding terrorism is something else entirely. There are, to be sure, some Muslim-Americans and Palestinian-Americans who oppose the current peace process. Some of them, through their mosques and charitable groups, have raised money to support specific and well-known institutions in the West Bank and Gaza. The amounts they raise are notable, but not substantial (and are in no way equivalent to the amount Jewish groups raise to support privately funded settlements in the West Bank).

The danger that many of these legitimate Muslim and Palestinian-American charities feel is that their activity (which is being attacked by some Jewish groups) may be held suspect by law enforcement agencies and that members of their communities may become too frightened to contribute to their work.

It is therefore ironic to note that Arab-Americans and American-Muslims also inadvertently played a role in pushing the administration to issue the executive order.

After the massacre in the Tomb of the Prophets mosque in Hebron, many Arab-Americans and American Muslims were outraged that the perpetrator was a U.S. citizen who had links to the U.S.-based group of the late Meir Kahane. Some pointed out to the administration that the group Kahane, the Jewish Defence Leagues (JDL), and its Israeli successor groups Kahane Chai and Kach, had strong U.S. roots in recruitment, fund-raising and training. They called on the administration to crack down on these groups and to pass laws to eliminate their U.S. connections — without realising that, if they weren't careful, the sword they asked

the administration to use could cut two ways.

It should be clear that the executive order includes these Jewish groups as well as the Palestinian and Arab revolutionary groups that are well-known for their opposition to the peace process. But, of course, the Arab-American and American-Muslim groups feel that they will receive the brunt of the order's attention.

The danger inherent in the executive order is not its effort to freeze the assets of these groups or to eliminate their recruitment, training and fundraising bases. The danger, as perceived by Arab-Americans and American-Muslims, could come if the FBI (which is charged with implementing the order) is given too great a licence.

The Arab-American and American-Muslim communities experience with the FBI has not been a healthy one. Going back to the 1960s, the FBI has been engaged in periodic campaigns of surveillance and what some have described as harassment and intimidation against activists in the communities. On a number of occasions, hundreds of Arab-Americans and American-Muslims have seen their civil and constitutionally protected rights violated by the agency of the government which is charged with protecting those rights — the FBI.

Most recently during the Gulf war, over 200 Arab-American community leaders, including high-ranking elected officials and respected community spokespeople, were visited by the FBI and questioned about their knowledge of anti-American activities. In many cases, these visits were public and caused many well-known leaders a great deal of embarrassment. This FBI effort was so wrong-headed that over 50 major U.S. newspapers wrote editorials demanding that the FBI cease and desist its questioning of Arab-Americans. City councils and state legislatures across the country joined in the call as did scores of U.S. senators and members of Congress.

That FBI campaign stopped, but the fear of abuse by that law enforcement agency remains alive in the Arab-American and Muslim-American communities.

Another case fresh in the minds of many, and not only in the Arab-American community but also in the U.S. civil rights community, is the harassment of the group known as the "L.A. 8." They are seven Palestinians and one Kenyan woman who were arrested in 1987 by the FBI and held for deportation. They were charged with the "crime" of distributing literature of the "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine."

The L.A. 8's case attracted the support of the major U.S. civil rights and ethnic groups because it is unacceptable in the U.S. to threaten anyone with punishment for political literature they receive or distribute. The case, which has been stalled in the U.S. courts for seven years, may resurface since the executive order lists the FFLP as one of the "terrorist groups." The question asked by U.S. civil liberties advocates is, "does the distribution or even sale of such papers constitute a violation of the executive order," since the order, in effect, bans acts that:

"Assist in, sponsor, or provide funds, material or technological support for or service in support of such acts of violence;" and prohibits: "Making or receiving of any contributions of funds, goods or services to or for the benefit of such forces (i.e., groups which engage in violence in opposition of the peace process)."

Of equal concern to some Arab-American and Muslim-American groups is the announcement by Secretary of State Warren Christopher that the administration will propose new legislation to the Congress which will tighten U.S. immigration laws to inhibit "terrorists" from coming to this country. Of concern are these reported sections of the legislation which will deal with:

— Increased scrutiny of "sham marriages" designed to bring aliens into the U.S.;

— Further restricting student visa waiver programmes; and

— Making asylum requests more difficult.

Once again, the major concern is with the application and implementation of such measures because, if they are interpreted too loosely, they could adversely affect many innocent people whose rights will be effectively abridged.

It is significant, as I noted, that the executive order includes Arab, Muslim and Jewish groups. But what concerns Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans is that the rhetoric used to discuss and justify the order has been directed exclusively at Arabs and Muslims.

There is virtually no measurable support for "terrorism" among Arab-Americans and American-Muslims. Those who do support such activities are clearly outside the mainstream of the communities and their actions have caused and continue to cause embarrassment to the larger community and pose some threat to our effort to advance and become empowered.

So, while Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans are quite unified in opposition to violence and those who support such activity, we are equally vigilant to respect the rights of those in our community who hold unpopular political opinions. And we have shown our commitment in the past to defend their rights when they are threatened.

Cracking down on violence is one thing, but Arab-Americans and American-Muslims are resolved not to allow this executive order to become a tool to crack down on political dissent — even if we disagree with the views of those who are being threatened.

Our experience is that we can, with the help of our many allies, win protection of our constitutionally protected rights. That is why many of our communities' groups have joined in coalition to insure that this executive order, whatever its original intent, does not become a licence for either law enforcement agencies or some pro-Israel groups to spy on, harass or otherwise intimidate Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans.

Sri Lanka ceasefire brings relief and hopes

By Arthur Max
The Associated Press

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka — Under a bright moon, motor boats steal across the shallow Jaffna lagoon, overloaded with sacks of rice, bundles of clothes, bicycles and people, risking capsizing in the choppy water.

But for years, a bigger threat has been Sri Lankan navy gunboats enforcing a blockade of the Jaffna peninsula, the stronghold of the Tamil Tiger rebels. Rebel speedboats, armed with machine guns, often escorted the supply boats.

"Sometimes we were caught in between when they fought each other. We would crouch down and watch them shooting over our heads," said Bishop Thomas Samanaryyagame, the Roman Catholic prelate of Jaffna, who makes the trip often to visit parishioners.

Now, a ceasefire declared Jan. 8 — the first fruit of peace talks that began last October — has eased the hazards of the crossing and is beginning to bring relief to the besieged peninsula.

Shops are filling with goods not seen for years, like school bags and batteries.

The armistice also is lifting hopes that after 11 years of bloodletting and 34,000 dead, Sri Lanka's civil war may be heading towards a negotiated settlement.

But a history of betrayed truces and decades of ethnic hatred between minority Tamils and the Sinhalese who dominate this tropical island nation still feed distrust and scepticism that peace will hold. People on both sides worry that a generation which has grown up in war will not know how to adjust to peace.

And doubts also remain about the Tamil Tigers and their shadowy leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran. A guerrilla fighter for more than half his 40 years, he has crushed all challengers, stifled dissent and inspired equal measures of hero worship and fear.

"The people are behind them," said one newspaper editor who, like many people in Jaffna, agreed to talk with a reporter only if granted anonymity. "During a war, people don't expect democracy."

A whispered conversation with a retired civil servant showed not everyone agrees. "We need our freedom to talk, move about, live as we like. These freedoms are denied to us here," he said. "If someone was to hear me talking like this, I would be killed."

After a decade of war, Jaffna is a shattered city. The heart of a would-be Tamil homeland is a bombed-out ruin. More than one person in three

lives in a displaced persons camp. Most homes have not had electricity for four years. Telephones are a dim memory. With fuel tightly regulated by the government, only a handful of cars are on the cratered streets — nearly all of them driven by Tiger officials. Buses and motor scooters have modified engines that run on a foul-smelling concoction of kerosene and vegetable oil.

While the rest of Sri Lanka blossomed, with an economy growing at 5 per cent annually and a booming stock market, Jaffna suffocated under the embargo. Jobs are scarce and prices high.

The head of the Department of Communal Medicine at Jaffna University, N. Sivaramiah, said he found in 1993 that 19 per cent of Jaffna's children were malnourished, compared with less than 4 per cent in 1976. The infant mortality rate more than doubled since the outbreak of the war, to 42 per 1,000 births.

The Tamils contend they suffer institutionalised discrimination and have long demanded control of the Tamil-speaking areas of the north and east. The map of their proposed state of "Eelam" covers nearly one-third of the country, although Tamils make up only 18 per cent of the population.

But the sides seem to be converging. The chief Tiger spokesman says the rebels will forgo their demand for independence and end the war in exchange for regional autonomy. The government has said decentralising power will be the centrepiece of a constitutional revision.

"We would seriously consider a federal model," Tiger spokesman Anton Balasingam said in an interview. "The entire Tamil population also is fed up with the war. The Tamils have been bearing the brunt. We have to fall in line with the global trend of reconciliation."

Hopes for peace have been dashed before. A peace accord mediated by India in 1987 never took hold. And a truce called in 1989 lasted for 13 months before the Tigers attacked police outposts and broke off peace talks.

The avenue for the latest peace talks opened last August when a leftist coalition led by Chandrika Kumaratunga ousted the United National Party, which had governed for 17 years and refused to negotiate with the rebels.

"It is the first time in the history of our struggle that the government has assumed power with a mandate from the Sinhalese people to resolve the conflict by peaceful means," said Mr. Balasingam.

LETTERS

Better readers, better writers and happier Arabs

To the Editor:

I USUALLY do not reply to letters commenting on my columns in the Jordan Times, but I feel it necessary to respond to Mr. Cecil Hourani's letter (Jordan Times, Jan. 29) because I believe that his reading of my column has seriously misinterpreted and distorted what I believe in my heart and what I actually wrote in the newspaper. I would make the following points:

1. I do not at all try to provide a psychological "justification" for Arab terror, since a justification implies approval or just cause for the acts. I merely insist that the modern Arab political order, in which Houranis and Khouris are willing and happy actors, must come to grips with the full underlying factors that drive some people to terror. We must accurately recognise what causes terror, rather than, ostrich-like, avoiding the difficult totality of the social, economic and political ailments that define many aspects of the modern Arab order. Those who know me and have read my writing over several decades would laugh at the suggestion that I might justify terror. My record for peace negotiations, mutual compromise and Arab-Israeli reconciliation speaks for itself.

2. I do not at all claim to "represent the feelings" of many, perhaps most, Palestinians and Arabs who, I believe, react rather passively to anti-Israeli Arab terror because of the reasons I mentioned in my column. I merely point out this phenomenon, and I make the point several

times in my column that it is a deeply troubling one. Indeed, the single most important moral point of the article is a strong plea for Arab society to come to grips with the distortions and ravages to our ethics and morality that are inherent in the phenomenon of Arab/Israeli terror.

3. Mr. Hourani is not being fully truthful when he says that I suggest that the demeaning nature of the peace talks is the cause of the frustration that drives the terror bombers. In my article I clearly stated that the main, overall reason for Arab frustration is that a large number, perhaps a majority, of Arabs and Palestinians are "unhappy with the current political balance between Arab and Israeli national rights." This refers to issues far wider and older than the peace process, and at the expense of being long-winded, which I am, I list five other important reasons why many Arabs are frustrated. To choose one reason only is to be unfair as a reader, and to criticise me on the basis of only one of six reasons is to be unfair as a polemicist.

4. I am, indeed, very critical of many aspects of Israeli, Arab and American official political postures, and I make my criticisms in an attempt to contribute to the continued drive towards a better Arab World, a drive in which Khouris and Houranis are willing and happy actors. Mr. Hourani enters the realm of conjecture and mistaken presumption, though, when he speculates that my reference to the collapse of the U.S.-Vietnam peace of the early 1970s is "a stern warning to the regime in Jordan." (Mr. Hourani, a gentleman and a scholar, is honest enough to preface his statement with the word "presumably," for he

recognises that he is presuming to read my mind; in this case, he has simply made a wrong reading). He is very creative in interpreting my comments as being about Jordan only, which they are not. I am referring to all the Arab parties that have signed accords with Israel, or that are negotiating and meeting with Israeli officials. His remarks about the possible anger of the Palestinian population of Jordan are intriguing, but they are clearly his remarks, and not from my article. Once again, my point is to suggest that we should not ignore the reality, extent or causes of Arab dissatisfaction with the current peace-making process, and that we should not be afraid to come to grips with people's feelings. It would be a terrible shame if the current peace-making resulted in a cold peace, like the Egyptian-Israeli peace, in view of what has happened in North Africa since the early 1980s.

5. Mr. Hourani takes several personal swipes at me and at what he interprets as my motives, but I shall not reply to those more personal comments because, a) he has the right to say anything he wants about my character, as long as he correctly understands and does not distort what I actually write and believe, b) I desire only to discuss public issues rather than personalities, and c) it is an honour to have my writing critiqued in public by a person as eminent as Mr. Hourani, for it will make me a better writer, and he a better reader, and both of us better, happier Arabs.

Rami G. Khouri,
Amman.

Abu Dhabi port grows but still dwarfed by Dubai

ABU DHABI (R) — Abu Dhabi's Port Zaid is attracting more shipping firms but the lion's share of regional cargo business will stay with bigger ports in Dubai, shipping sources have said.

"There's no potential out of Abu Dhabi. It takes time (to sail there) and the times cannot afford it," said one Dubai-based official at an international shipping line.

"But if the service (from Port Zaid) became attractive because of costs and the big boys come in, then the trade will take another look," he told Reuters.

Abu Dhabi and Dubai are both members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Dubai, which is closer to the mouth of the Gulf, became the world's 14th busiest container port in 1994.

Abu Dhabi's Port Zaid handled 26 per cent more tonnage in 1994 than in the previous year, Abu Dhabi Seaport Authority marketing director Shamsul Qamar told Reuters.

But the total of 1.78 million tonnes handled by Port Zaid in 1994 is dwarfed by the more than 25 million tonnes handled the same year by

Dubai's two ports, Jebel Ali and Port Rashid.

"Dubai's the Rotterdam of the Gulf," said an Abu Dhabi-based shipping company official. "Traders bring in goods in bulk and trade them. Abu Dhabi's never been like that."

Mr. Qamar said the number of firms using Port Zaid was now 45, up from 34 in 1992, after Italy's Messina Shipping Line signed up to use it as a distribution hub for the upper Gulf and Indian subcontinent.

Port Zaid offers incentives like low fees and discounts for bunker fuel which start between five and 10 per cent.

"That's the main attraction, and the published tariff is much lower than in some areas, especially for trans-shipment," Mr. Qamar said.

The authority, which markets the port under its Arabic name Mina Zaid, will add two gantry cranes to the existing three this year.

"That will make quite a big difference — you can handle two big ships and one small one," said the Abu Dhabi-based shipper.

But Port Zaid faces the preference of most big lines for unloading goods in bulk at Dubai — which is close to ocean shipping routes — then employing smaller firms to distribute them regionally in feeder vessels, shippers said.

"Everyone's trying to compete with Dubai Ports Authority and the only way is to cut costs (to users)," said one shipper.

There is also strong demand in Abu Dhabi, he said, for imported materials for building and infrastructure projects.

"As long as (Abu Dhabi's) oil industry is spending there'll be a lot of cargo, and it'll come into Mina Zaid," he said.

Jordan and Hebron sign accords

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Hebron Chamber of Industry and Trade in the West Bank Sunday signed an agreement to cooperate in trade, to provide facilities for investors by business communities and to carry out joint economic ventures.

The two sides agreed to exchange information and expertise towards boosting their national economies, to conduct direct consultations on trade and to coordinate their positions at Arab and foreign meetings.

The two chambers will cooperate in organising joint exhibitions displaying national industries and to publish information and reports about each other's activities.

They also agreed to organise regular visits and training courses for employees of the Hebron chamber and to facilitate the Hebron chamber's endeavours in Jordan. The two chambers will cooperate in establishing an integrated economic base and economic deals concluded by

the private sectors from the two sides.

Mr. Amman Chamber of Commerce President Haider Murad, who signed the deal along with Hashem Natsheh head of the Hebron Chamber, lauded His Majesty King Hussein's efforts towards bolstering support for the city of Hebron and its people.

The new deal comes close on the heels of another signed by the Amman Chamber of Commerce with those in Gaza and Nablus to encourage trade exchanges, said Mr. Murad.

For his part, Mr. Natsheh said that Hebron welcomes close cooperation between the two sides within the framework of the general agreement signed by Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority on Jan. 26, 1995.

The delegation from the Hebron chamber also Sunday had a meeting with Khalidoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, and discussed with him mutual cooperation in industrial and economic fields.

Mr. Hassan expressed his willingness to extend any assistance to the Hebron chamber.

Mr. Tamimi told the Jordan Times that more and more Jordanian companies are becoming more interested in obtaining the certificate that would ensure them more to international markets.

He noted that Jordan lagged behind other Arab countries like the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, and Saudi Arabia which have a larger number of certified companies.

"There are 36 companies in the UAE, 14 in Egypt, and 20 in Saudi Arabia which have been awarded the certificate," Mr. Tamimi said.

According to the Geneva-based International Trade Centre (ITC) the ISO 9000 is a quality certificate awarded to companies that meet a series of standards set by the international organisation for standardisation (ISO).

The ITC reported that 62 countries worldwide have adopted the ISO 9000 standards as national standards by mid-1994.

Mr. Tamimi said the government is currently considering setting an office at JEDCO to inform Jordanian companies about the ISO 9000, through noting that the procedure is very costly and that the German government, for example, is paying \$6 billion annually to get German companies certified.

"We do not have any official body to supervise this

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Swindle suspected in exports to U.S.

★ An investigation committee, comprising members from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Customs Department, is searching for the party which was behind the export of a huge shipment of shirts from Jordan to the U.S. during the past eight months. The volume, estimated at two million shirts, has aroused fears of the U.S. imposing a quota on Jordan's exports of shirts similar to some other Arab countries. Jordanian industrialists suspect that some Asian companies have forged Jordanian certificates of origin and exported the shirts which were not made in Jordan to the U.S. market to circumvent the quotas imposed on their countries. The committee is expected to recommend that certificates of origin be issued only from the Amman Chamber of Industry. Exports from the free zone are not considered Jordanian-made goods in accordance with free-zone laws applied in the Kingdom (Al Aswaj).

★ The Ministry of Supply is expected to allow the private sector to import frozen meat from India before the beginning of Ramadan. Imports, however, will be restricted to areas that were not affected by the plague which swept some parts of India six months ago (Al Dustour).

★ The Ministry of Industry and Trade is preparing lists of Palestinian products which will be exempted from Jordanian customs, taxes and other fees. Other lists will include Palestinian products which will be allowed into the Kingdom but will be subject to customs and taxes (Al Ra'i).

★ The total value of projects executed through the Government Tenders Department in 1994 amounted to JD 117 million. The water and sewage projects ranked first, for JD 46 million, followed by JD 32 million worth of projects for the education sector. JD 15 million went for projects in the transport and JD 13 million for the communication sector. Other projects were for supply (JD 3.1 million) and housing (JD 3 million). The department enlists 200 classified contractors, 592 licensed contractors and 10 consultants (Al Dustour).

★ It is expected that the government will drop all the lawsuits accumulated over the years against those who owe it less than JD 100 as following up on those cases costs the state more (Al Dustour).

★ Al Azraq Cooperative Society agreed to resume salt supplies to bakeries until March 1 when the Ministry of Supply is to rule on whether salt prices should be raised or not. Bakeries consume about 500 tonnes of salt each month. The society is demanding that the price of a kilogram of salt be increased from 130 fils to 160 fils for the consumers and from JD 30 per tonne to JD 75 per tonne for bakeries (Al Dustour).

★ Ramtha Municipality is in the red by JD 1,305,000. The municipality is owed JD 217,000 but could only collect JD 75,000 in three months. Efforts are underway to collect the remaining amounts (Al Ra'i).

★ The Tourism Investment Department of the Social Security Corporation plans to expand and modernise its hotels and resorts this year for a total cost of JD 4.5 million. The department is also conducting technical and economic studies to set up a health spa in the Dead Sea area (Al Ra'i).

★ Agriculture Ministry inspectors seized 20 tonnes of adulterated fodder concentrates. Three merchants caught selling them were referred to courts (Al Dustour).

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (January 23 - January 27, 1995)

AMMAN — The dollar rose marginally against the mark at the end of last week, while stabilising against the yen and sterling. It ended the week 0.22 per cent higher against the mark.

The dollar appreciated against the mark and yen Monday, while depreciating against sterling. Reports indicated that traders were concerned over the recent earthquake that hit Japan and the Mexican financial crisis. As a result, most financial markets suffered from these factors.

The U.S. unit depreciated marginally against other major currencies Tuesday. Its depreciation came on the back of traders' anticipation for speeches by the chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, Mr. Greenspan, and the U.S. treasury secretary to be given before the American Congress the following day.

The dollar continued its depreciation against the yen Wednesday, while appreciating against European currencies. Though the dollar has depreciated to 1.5035 marks during early trading hours, its lowest level against the German currency since two and half months; however, it rose back to close around its opening levels later that day. The dollar's movement was attributed to Mr. Greenspan's speech, as he stated that the Fed succeeded in curbing inflation.

His statement was misinterpreted as the Fed will not raise its short term interest rates on its next meeting Tuesday 31/1/1995. However, the dollar rose later, when investors realised that the Fed might tighten the monetary policy to sustain low levels of inflation. Meanwhile, news that a missile fired mistakenly from Norway towards Russia affected the dollar positively.

On Thursday, the U.S. units stabilised against other major currencies. It fell during early trading hours, however, it rose back to its opening levels later that day. Its revival came in view of news that the IMF signed an agreement to extend \$7.75 billion loan to Mexico on Wednesday 12/1/1995.

At the end of the week, the dollar depreciated marginally against the mark and yen, while appreciating against sterling. Heated debate in the U.S. Congress on whether to extend loan guarantees to Mexico affected the dollar negatively. Meanwhile, investors paid little attention to the U.S. GDP figures showing an annualised increase of 4.5 per cent for the fourth quarter of 1994 and thus raising the annual growth to 4.0 per cent, the highest growth since 10 years. Moreover, these figures showed that the GDP price component increased by 1.6 per cent, its lowest level since 30 years.

The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.5150 marks, 99.38 yen and at \$1.5895 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	20/1/95	27/1/95	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5888	1.5895	0.045
Deutsche Mark	1.5116	1.5150	0.2212
Swiss Franc	1.2702	1.2736	0.2715
French Franc	5.2335	5.2593	0.4918
Japanese Yen	99.42	99.38	0.045

USD Per STG

Currency	20/1/1995	27/1/1995	1-Month (%)	3-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.75	6.93	5.75	7.12	
Sterling Pound	5.81	6.37	6.00	7.56	
Deutsche Mark	4.66	5.62	4.68	5.50	
Swiss Franc	3.56	4.43	3.50	4.37	
French Franc	5.37	6.62	5.31	6.43	
Japanese Yen	9.06	9.27	2.06	2.18	

Interbank bid rates for amount exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.1057	1.1112
Deutsche Mark	0.4460	0.4623
Swiss Franc	0.5465	0.5492
French Franc	0.1324	0.1331
Japanese Yen*	0.7017	0.7052
Dutch Guilder	0.4101	0.4122
Swedish Krona	0.0434	0.0436
Italian Lira*	0.0434	0.0436
Belgian Franc	0.0434	0.0436

* Per 100

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 29/01/1995			
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2100	9232	6.410 4.400
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	2600	10884	6.220 4.190
BANK OF JORDAN	11257	39970	3.600 3.550
THE HOUSING BANK	10850	65100	6.050 6.000
JORDAN GULF BANK	500	760	1.550 1.520
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	10250	38099	3.830 3.800
WEST JORDAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	800	2673	4.150 4.150
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	42600	57238	1.430 1.360
BANKS SECTOR	80077	225355	INDEX NUMBER: 129.36
			CHANGE: -0.29%
UNITED INSURANCE	2250	6320	2.850 2.800
INSURANCE SECTOR	2250	6300	INDEX NUMBER: 136.68
			CHANGE: -0.00%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	27115	42630	1.560 1.520
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	5550	8025	1.470 1.440
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	2516	12577	5.000 5.000
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	750	2475	3.370 3.300
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1000	2250	2.300 2.260
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODITY HOTELS	4000	9480	2.390 2.360
ARAB LETTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	575	2017	3.600 3.510
SERVICES SECTOR	41506	78463	INDEX NUMBER: 131.55
			CHANGE: -1.22%
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	3086	9070	2.950 2.940
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	750	2138	2.850 2.850
THE ARAB POTASH MINES	800	4080	5.100 5.100
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1570	18056	9.600 9.500
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1600	6590	4.150 4.150
THE JORDAN WORTED MILLS	520	4058	7.850 7.800
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	850	4343	5.130 5.100
THE JORDAN TUBES MANUFACTURING	810	2146	2.650 2.650
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	200	542	2.750 2.710
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	9000	8938	1.010 .990
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	500	3475	7.000 6.950
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	18400	16388	0.850 .820
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	1350	1870	1.410 1.380
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	150	380	2.580 2.530
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACH/JEDCO	2900	2294	0.800 .780
JORDAN SUBP. CHEMICALS	650	1283	1.920 1.820
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	100	264	2.680 2.640
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	400	1662	4.170 4.150
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	43856	84047	DEX NUMBER: 126.18
			CHANGE: -0.39%
GRAND TOTAL	167689	393965	INDEX NUMBER: 142.63
			CHANGE: -0.39%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		269470	
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		312488	

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Sports

Koski takes home 3rd Grand Slam title

tru (AP) — Andre Agassi, the confident and confident, defeated Pete Sampras on Sunday to win the Australian Open men's singles title at his first attempt.

Agassi, the No. 2 seed, beat his fellow American 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (8-6), 6-4 in two hours, 36 minutes, absorbing a barrage of aces and wearing him down from the baseline.

It was Agassi's second successive Grand Slam title following his victory in the U.S. Open late last year.

The 24-year-old clinched his win in a typically flamboyant fashion — with an ace.

Agassi had not previously played in the Australian Open, but he went through the tournament dropping only one set.

"He was just too good for everyone and he deserves all the success he's got," Sampras said. "Andre hits the ball so early. I fought as hard as I could for two weeks and I came up a little bit short today."

"If he stays healthy he'll be a threat in every major tournament of the year."

Sampras, the top seed and defending champion, had two set points for a 2-1 lead during the third set tiebreaker and looked dejected after Agassi rallied to take it.

Sampras fell behind 3-0 in the tiebreaker, won the next four points and served for the set at 6-4 with a brilliant reflex volley past a stunned Agassi.

But Agassi then ripped a forehand return that nicked the net cord and skipped past Sampras for a winner. That was the first of four straight points Agassi won as he closed out the set with a backhand volley drop shot that spun away from Sampras.

"I think it came down to the third set. If I could have come back to win the tiebreaker it could have been different," Sampras said.

"I can walk out of here with my head up high that I fought hard and lost to a better player. I can accept that."

Sampras served 28 aces to 10 from Agassi, but he lost all five tiebreakers he played during the first Grand Slam tournament of the year.

Agassi made just 26 unforced errors to 50 by Sampras and frequently left the No. 1 seed rooted to the spot with his searing passing shots from both sides.

Sampras had 13 aces in the fourth set, but also made 15 errors.

Agassi, variously dubbed "Andre the giant killer" and "the pirate king", earned



Andre Agassi of the U.S. looks to his coach American Pete Sampras 4-6, 6-1, 7-6, (8-6), singles title on Sunday. Agassi beat fellow-

\$360,000 for his victory, while Sampras took home half that amount.

"I felt like it was a strange match," Agassi said. "You could never be sure who had the momentum."

It was Agassi's third Grand Slam title. He also won Wimbledon in 1992.

Sampras paid tribute to his seriously ill coach Tim Gullikson, who had to return to the United States from Australia after a setback in the first week of the tournament.

Gullikson suffered an apparent stroke when he became dizzy and lost his speech and vision for most of a day.

"I just want to let him know I keep thinking about him. And that I wish he was here," Sampras said. "I've been praying for him the last couple of weeks."

Gullikson watched the match at home in Wheaton, Ill., after being discharged for the weekend from the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center. More tests were scheduled Monday.

Agassi said he had great admiration for Sampras' reaction to the trauma of Gullikson's illness, saying his resolve had been "absolutely inspiring."

"We can all learn something from what Pete has managed to do," he said. "He's a class act. He's shown over the past couple of weeks why he is No. 1 in the world."

Agassi, who dressed throughout the tournament in wild, colorful clothing and wore a gypsy-style bandana, said he had benefited from his self-belief.

"It's the first time I've come to a Grand Slam and

really believed I could win it," he said.

"I got over a real big hump with that U.S. Open victory. That was a real big step for me."

Sampras, who still has an 8-7 career edge over Agassi, said he believes the two can develop a great rivalry.

"It has to be good for the game," he said. "Andre's the one guy who can get tennis on the front page of the newspapers and tennis needs that."

The Australian title was won by an American for the fourth year in a row, Jim Courier taking the title in 1992 and '93, and Sampras last year. It was also only the third time in the open era since 1968 that the Australian had an all-American final. Sampras beat Todd Martin a year ago, and in 1982 newly naturalized American Johan Kriek beat Steve Denton.

"He's played well the whole tournament," Agassi coach, Brad Gilbert said. "He came out and did what he wanted. He beat the guy he wanted to beat. He's improved a lot since the U.S. Open."

Immediately after his win, Agassi's thought turned to the French Open, the one major title to elude him. "Ironically, the one I haven't won yet is the one I was favoured in both finals," he said. "I want it."

Agassi was beaten finalist in Paris in 1990 and 1991. American Rick Leach and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus upset fifth seeds Gigi Fernandez and Cyril Suk to win the mixed doubles title earlier Sunday.

Leach and Zvereva, playing together for the first time, triumphed 7-6 (7-4), 6-7 (3-7), 6-4.

Mary Pierce kept the ball deep and pounced on Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's mistakes on Saturday to win the women's singles final — her first Grand Slam title.

Pierce, the No. 4 seed, defeated top-seeded Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 6-2 — a result that delayed Sanchez Vicario's bid to take over the No. 1 world ranking from the injured Steffi Graf.

Pierce, 20, avenged her loss to Sanchez Vicario in last year's French Open final and became the first Frenchwoman to win a Grand Slam singles title since Francoise Durr at the 1967 French Open and the first to win the Australian title.

Graf has announced that she will miss next week's Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo with the same injury. As a result of her withdrawal, Sanchez Vicario will leapfrog the German and take over as No. 1 when the rankings are issued on Feb. 6.

The win will see Pierce move up to a career-high NO. 3 ranking behind Graf and Sanchez Vicario.

The tournament, sponsored by Ford, offered total prize money of \$6.2 million.

Australian Open notebook

★ Former Australian Davis Cup captain Neale Fraser believes male tennis players should be paid more than their female counterparts.

Fraser, a former Wimbledon champion, said during the Australian Open that the current equal-pay deal discriminates against the men.

"They play better tennis. They play far more tennis. They attract bigger crowds and they dominate the television ratings. Yet they get paid the same as the ladies," Fraser said.

Fraser pointed to the marathon quarterfinal between world No. 1 Pete Sampras and compatriot Jim Courier as an example and contrasted Courier's entertainment value with that provided by women's quarterfinalist Angelica Gavaldon.

"Courier not only played a spectacular five-set match in the quarterfinals, he actually won more games than Gavaldon played," he said. "Yet they get the same pay — can that be fair?"

Of the four Grand Slam tournaments, the Australian and U.S. Opens offer equal prize money.

★ Pierce feted: Mary Pierce was inundated with text and fax messages after her victory over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the women's singles final at the Australian Open.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur sent Pierce his "very warm congratulations."

"You can be certain that all those who in our country like tennis share today your happiness," he said.

Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie was even more effusive.

"I congratulate you for this beautiful victory made with great skill and talent that puts you in the forefront today," she said. "You have just given women's tennis and French sports a brilliant victory of which we're all proud."

★ Rankings review: The chairman of the four Grand Slam tournaments have presented suggestions for changes to the current rankings system used by the ATP Tour, which is conducting a review of the system.

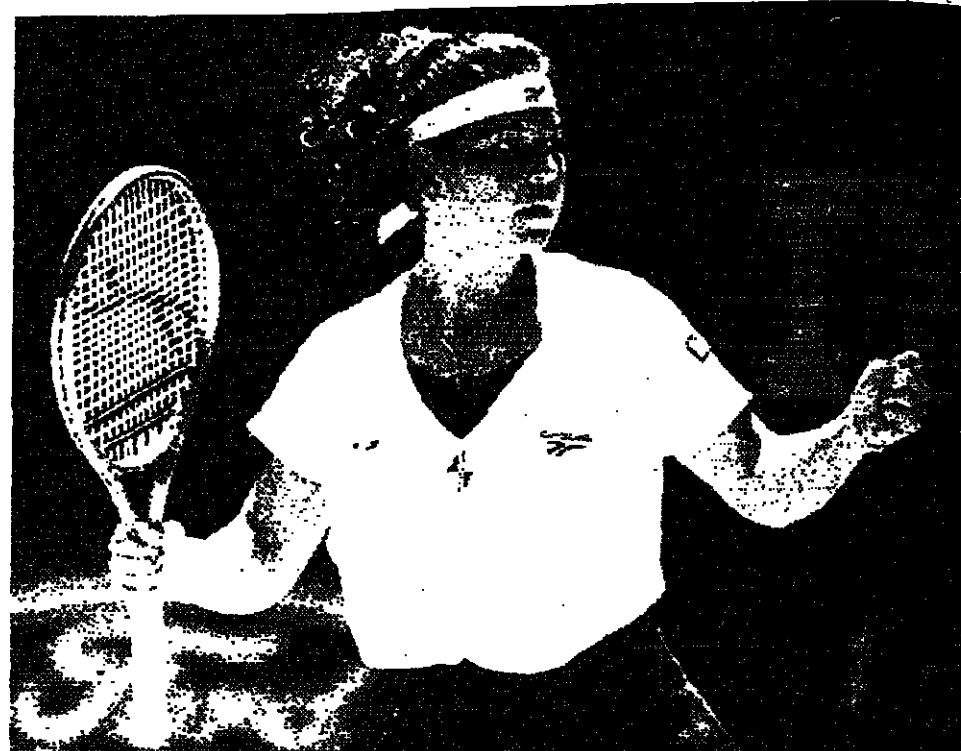
Under the current system players count only their best 14 tournament results for the year.

The Grand Slam committee believes the rankings system should include results from all tournaments to "maintain the integrity of every match."

The committee said it should also reflect the importance and status of the Grand Slams by awarding them at least double the points awarded to the highest-rated ATP Tour championship series tournament.

The committee would also like to see the Grand Slam Cup, which currently receives no points, be awarded an equivalent number to the ATP Tour world championship event.

★ Speedy servers: A speed-serving competition at the Australian Open raised U.S.\$8,700 for Ronald McDonald Children's Charities.



Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario lost the chance to become world No. 1 after losing the final to France's Mary Pierce (AFP photo)

Tales of the stars at Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AFP) — One star was eclipsed and another born at a dramatic Australian Open which wound up here Sunday with Andre Agassi dethroning Pete Sampras.

The New Andre Age of tennis began memorably with a suitably street-smart, colourfully attired Agassi coming back from one set down to eclipse Sampras, the supreme fighter, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 in the men's singles final.

With his baggy shorts which need to be constantly hiked up, a piratical bandana and earrings, Agassi blends in easily with the current crop of sports heroes such as basketballer Michael Jordan and amazing Australian spin bowler Shane Warne.

"Andre is one guy who puts tennis on the front page and I think tennis needs that," Sampras said.

Saturday saw a new star firmly fixed in the tennis firmament when tall, elegant Frenchwoman Mary Pierce finally fulfilled her promise and captured her first Grand Slam title.

With powerful, groundstrokes from both sides, she coolly wiped out Spain's U.S. and French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in two sets.

The Australian press saw Pierce, with her movie star looks, as currently the hottest property in woman's sports.

Sampras — human after all!

The tall, slim Sampras favours sleeky clean white tennis shirts and up to this tournament has been seen as a brilliant achiever, a metro-nome player who was a teeny bit dull.

Then came the quarter final with his old rival Jim Courier, which opened as Sampras' coach Tim Gullikson — already the victim of

two strokes — was flying back for treatment in the United States after being taken ill here.

Sampras was clearly disturbed and trailed 2-0. But he refused to roll over and, as he had done with Magnus Larsson in the previous round, fought back to two-alls.

Then a phrase floated down from the crowd through the warm night air: "Win it for your coach."

Sampras cracked. Pistol Pete, Mr. Automata, put his head in a big white towel and wept. He choked. His face contorted, he fought back tears, failed, and wiped at them with his hand.

And then, in one of sport's supreme moments, through the tears he served Jovian thunderbolts. Sampras, who is of Greek descent, took on heroic stature as he fought his emotions and Courier and won.

More than tears:

There was more than tears on the court Friday after a thunderstorm raged around the Flinders Park complex where 11,000 people were comfortably ensconced under the huge roof watching Agassi destroy Aaron Krickstein in a one-sided semi final.

Moments after they left the court, power failed throughout the complex. The nearby Yarra River rose, overwhelming storm drains and sending brown water cascading across the centre court as TV technicians raced to salvage valuable equipment.

Water also swamped the darkened press centre and the umpires quarters and brought play to a premature end as one wage backstroked across the court.

Male-bonding alive and well:

The bedrock belief of Australia male-bonding, mateship, flowered here. Seeing the distressed Sampras, Courier called gently across the court: "Are you alright Pete, we can do this

tomorrow."

In his moment of triumph Agassi: who can be as courtly as Southern senator, said that what Sampras had been "showing on the court and on the court is absolutely inspiring and we can all learn from it. He's a class act."

And Sanchez Vicario's gesture as a defeated finalist to kiss the winner of both cheeks.

Drama makes up for falls:

The dramas helped pull in the crowds. At least 300,000 people during the two weeks — down 10 per cent on 1993 — but this year's attendance topped 312,000.

Marquee names drew fans, with Agassi, Michael Chang, Boris Becker and the year-old Swiss prodigy Martina Hingis competing.

But seeds were scattered in the first round with number three, German veteran Boris Becker and big-serving Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, number four, going down in flames in three sets.

Hingis lasted one round before she went back to school.

Key seeds in the bottom quarter of the "top" of the women's draw also toppled in the first round.

Germany's Sabine Hack fell in three sets. Fancied fifth seed Gabriela Sabatini lasted only two before surrendering to unseeded tour veteran Marianne Werdel Witsmeyer who went all the way to a semi-final execution by Sanchez Vicario.

In the fourth round, Werdel Witsmeyer thumped Angelica Gavaldon of Mexico who managed to hit on winning points in the tie and earned \$24,800.

This and the large number of matches decided in two sets threw a shadow on women's tennis which was only partially lifted by the women's two-set final which included two memorable games.

NHL RESULTS

NEW YORK (R) — Results of National Hockey League games played on Saturday:

Detroit	5	Edmonton	2
Philadelphia	2	Boston	1
Florida	2	Hartford	1
Montreal	2	New Jersey	1
San Jose	3	Dallas	2
Tampa Bay	4	NY Islanders	2
Ottawa	3	Buffalo	2 (OT)
Quebec	2	NY Rangers	0
Toronto	2	Calgary	1
Vancouver	3	ST Louis	1
Los Angeles	4	Winnipeg	2

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★ Data processing.
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♠Q95 ♠AK6 ♣Q763 ♣J5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ872 ♠AQ ♠AQ5 ♠93
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠988 ♠K10985 ♠Q2 ♠EQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AJ7 ♠AJ10 ♠J10542 ♠K8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ4 103 ♠K1084 ♠AK83
What is your opening bid?
Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQJ10 ♠9 ♠EQ ♠J10983
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

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PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashimi Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
Jim Carrey in THE MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Najlaa Fathi & Farouq Al Fihawi — in THE GARAGE Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "1" Sylvester Stallone - Sharon Stone THE SPECIALIST Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Harrison Ford - Whitney Houston — THE BODYGUARD Shows: 3, 5		SUM'A in the satirical play HI CITIZEN Composed and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqfeh Daily from 8 p.m. Children's Play The Ninja Turtles Show Directed by Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10:30 p.m.	Presents Abu Awwad in the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays

SPORTS
Faisali, R
last of th
By Alwan Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times
JORDAN — Al Faisali Monday cap...
Al Faisali's soccer cap...
the Jordan Cup title at...
the Jordan Youth Cup...
holders Al Faisali...
to win their second...
the year after win...
the season-opening...
Winner's Cup mean...
Al Ramtha will be...
to clinch their first...
of the season after...
the first division...
the fourth title — the Fed...
the Shield — was won...
Al Hussein...
Al Faisali, one of the...
most consistent teams in the...
have a formidable...
in the sport. They...
won the first division...
winning 25 times and...
now aiming to win their...
eighth Jordan Cup...
Together with Al...
Ramtha, the two teams...
have alternated the Jordan...
Cup since 1989.
However, Al Faisali had...
relatively slow season this...
year and finished third in...
the first division after win...
ning three of the game's...
three in 1992 and 1993.
Al Ramtha last won the...
Jordan Cup in 1990 and...
1991 and last won the Fed...
eration Shield in 1993.
Al Ramtha reached the...
final after overcoming Al...
Faisali.

Lakers beat
COMA, Washington...
Elden Campbell...
eight of his 27 points...
over time as the Los...
Angeles Lakers came from 17...
points behind in the first...
half to beat the Seattle Super...
sonics 128-121 Saturday.
The Lakers overcame an...
11-point deficit with two...
minutes left in regulation to...
lead the score 111-111 and send...
the game into overtime.
In overtime, the Lakers...
led 102, Hawks 93: In...
overtime, Larry Johnson...
and 20 points and Alonzo...
Murren 19 as the Charlotte...
Knights beat Atlanta three...
games after losing to the...
Lakers at home.
Zack Augmon led the...
Lakers with 22 points.
In overtime, Hawks 97: In...
overtime, Maryland, the...
Washington Bullets held the...
Los Angeles Clippers to four...
points in the final 5 1/2 minutes...
all on free throws — and...
won.

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Faisali, Ramtha battle for last of the season's titles

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ramtha and Al Faisali Monday cap the season's soccer competitions when they clash for the Jordan Cup title at Al Hussein Youth City.

Titleholders Al Faisali will seek to win their second title of the year after winning the season-opening Cup Winner's Cup meanwhile, Al Ramtha will be aiming to clinch their first title of the season after finishing second behind Al Wihdat in the first division.

The fourth title — the Federation Shield — was won by Al Hussein.

Al Faisali, one of the most consistent teams in the game, have a formidable record in the sport. They have won the first division an astonishing 25 times and are now aiming to win their record eighth Jordan Cup title. Together with Al Ramtha, the two teams have alternated the Jordan Cup since 1989.

However, Al Faisali had a relatively slow season this year and finished third in the first division after winning three of the game's titles in 1992 and 1993.

Al Ramtha last won the Jordan Cup in 1990 and 1991 and last won the Federation Shield in 1993.

Al Ramtha reached the final after overcoming Al

Round-the-world race resumes

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian favourite David Adams took an early lead in the BOC round-the-world solo yacht race as a fleet of 13 left Sydney Harbour on the third leg Sunday.

The leading boats are expected to reach the third-leg destination of Punta Del Este in Uruguay by the end of February after negotiating the treacherous winds and seas off the Argentine coast.

But first they will have to face the hazards of the Southern Ocean which race organisers say will include icebergs and snow squalls before rounding Cape Horn.

Sailing under a vivid summer sky and propelled by a six-to-eight knot northeasterly, British sailor Channah Vaughan in the Class II yacht Jimrod II led the fleet across the starting line.

Then Adams, whose yacht True Blue led Class-II by 22 hours from Giovanni Soldini of Italy in Kodak after winning the first and second legs, found that puff of wind with which he accelerated to the front followed by J.J. Provoyeur in Novell South Africa Provoyeur and Soldini.

However, 45 minutes after the start, Frenchman Jean-Luc Van Den Heede had taken the lead in his class-I yacht Vendee Enterprises, followed by American Steve Pettengill in Hunter's Child and Adams who was lying third overall but leading Class II.

Defending BOC champion Christophe Auguin, of France, whose Class-I yacht Scota Calaberson led the fleet by more than a day and a half into Sydney, was lying fourth overall and third in Class-I.

Crowd favourite, France's Isabelle Antissier, was a disappointed but stoical spectator who blew Christophe Auguin a kiss as he passed, waved to him and commented to fellow spectators: "I wish I was out there, but I'm glad to see Christophe doing so well."

Antissier was the only woman in the race but its clear leader until being disqualified following her spectacular rescue by helicopter from her crippled yacht in the Southern Ocean on New Year's morning.

Her unfortunate but courageous exploits won her Australian hearts.

With the 49ers favoured by 18-20 points, many ask 'why play?'

MIAMI (AP) — Why play? When one team, the San Francisco 49ers, is perhaps one of the greatest American pro-football teams in the last 30 years, and the other, the San Diego Chargers, is, well, lucky to even be here — why play?

Which is what a lot of people could be asking by the time the Super Bowl ends Sunday night at Joe Robbie stadium.

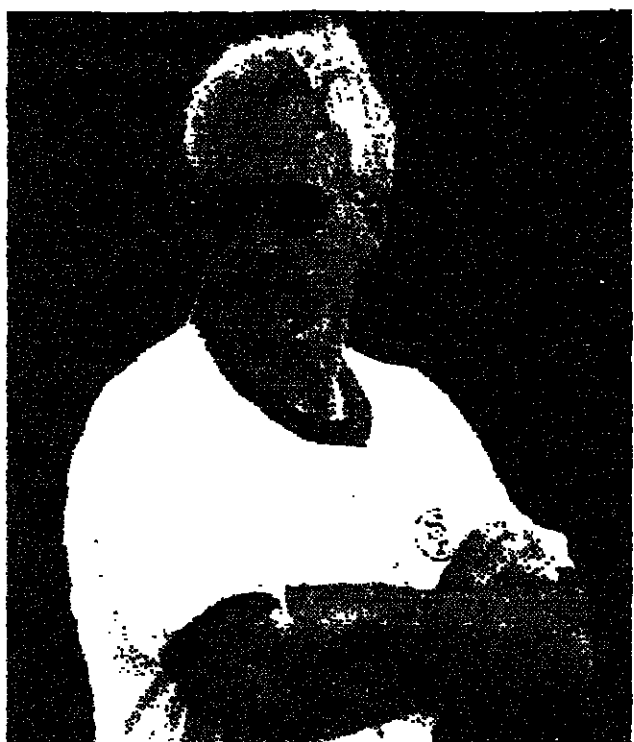
For by the second quarter, third at the latest, they may be watching reserve quarterback Elvis Grbac throwing to fellow backups Nate Singleton, Ed McCaffrey and Ted Popson — not long after starters Steve Young, Jerry Rice, John Taylor and Brent Jones have devoured the suspect San Diego defensive backfield.

By then, the only consolation may be that neither the Buffalo Bills nor Denver Broncos — two teams who have lost seven of the last eight Super Bowls by a combined score of 275-113 — are here.

The 49ers are playing for the NFL championship because they have been one of only two dominant teams in this season of parity. The other was the Dallas Cowboys, whom the 49ers beat 38-28 in the NFC title game two weeks ago, accomplishing the goal they set after losing to Dallas the previous two years.

This is a team of superstars seeking to become the first to win five Super Bowls, while extending the winning streak of the NFC to 11 NFL titles. All but two of the last 10 victories were by lopsided scores, an average of 38-15 — the same score by which the Niners beat the Chargers at San Diego Dec. 11.

They were picked to finish at the bottom of the AFC West division. Instead, they



San Francisco 49ers head coach George Seifert watches over his team during the 49ers final practice before Super Bowl XXIX being held Sunday, Jan. 29 at Miami's Joe Robbie Stadium.

ure. The assumptions, the expectations, the weight of this week's buildup to the big game are all on the 49ers.

"There's more pressure on their team than on us," San Diego quarterback Stan Humphries said. "Anything less than a win, and the season has gone for nothing for them."

The burden is particularly heavy on a player such as NFL most valuable player Steve Young, still striving to escape the shadow of four-time Super Bowl winner Joe Montana. Young will start in the league championship game for the first time.

The Chargers, by contrast, should be loose as lightning, because only they and their parents think they can win.

"I'm going to be in the locker room the day of the game cracking jokes," running back Natrone Means said. "We have no pressure on us. If we go out and lose by 50 points, everybody will say, 'that's what was supposed to happen.' If we win, then we shock the world."

When the kickoff finally arrives, it's possible that nervousness will undo the Chargers, rather than the 49ers. San Diego is the younger team, has never played in a Super Bowl and remembers being trounced by the 49ers 38-15 in December.

"We can't come out tight," Means said. "If we do like we did the first game, it'll be over in the first quarter."

The 49ers, meanwhile, deny that the pressure will cause them to buckle.

"There's been pressure on us in every game this season," linebacker Gary Munner said. "We beat Atlanta 50-14, and there's criticism of our clock management, or the fact we dropped two passes, or that we had three penalties."

"It's a good feeling to know that you're expected to play a flawless game."

Lakers beat Sonics in overtime

TACOMA, Washington (AP) — Elden Campbell scored eight of his 27 points in overtime as the Los Angeles Lakers came from 17 points behind in the first half to beat the Seattle SuperSonics 128-121 Saturday.

The Lakers overcame an eight-point deficit with two minutes left in regulation to tie the score 111-111 and sent the game into overtime.

Hornets 102, Hawks 93: In Atlanta, Larry Johnson scored 20 points and Alonzo Mourning 19 as the Charlotte Hornets beat Atlanta three nights after losing to the Hawks at home.

Stacey Augmon led the Hawks with 22 points.

Bullets 93, Clippers 87: In Landover, Maryland, the Washington Bullets held the Los Angeles Clippers to four points in the final 5 1/2 minutes — all on free throws — and won for the first time this season when scoring fewer than 100 points.

Spurs 103, Nuggets 77: In San Antonio, Sean Elliott scored 31 points and David Robinson added 18 points, 12 rebounds and seven blocked shots to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 103-77 victory over the Denver Nuggets Saturday night.

Elliott scored 24 points in the first half as the Spurs shot 56 per cent and led 56-36 by intermission. The Nuggets, losers of six of their last seven games, could get no closer than 9 the second half.

Jazz 111, Nets 94: In Salt Lake City, John Stockton moved past Oscar Robertson into second place on the NBA's career assists list, leading the Utah Jazz over New Jersey 111-94 Saturday night for their 12th straight win.

Stockton had 14 assists for a total of 9,897. He topped Robertson with his fifth assist of the game, a one-hand pass from the top of the key to Adam Keefe under the basket with 5:38 left in the second quarter.

Magic Johnson ranks No. 1 in the NBA with 9,921 assists.

Magic 107, Bucks 103: In Orlando, Florida, Dennis Scott's 27 points keyed the perimeter game, led the Magic over the Milwaukee Bucks.

The win kept the Magic undefeated at home in 21 games this season.

Horace Grant, returning to the starting lineup after missing a game with a hyperextended left knee, added 25 points and 14 rebounds. Shaquille O'Neal missed the game with a cat on his left foot.

won the division with an 11-5 record, but remained one of those second-line teams, in the "better-than-average" category with the Packers, Dolphins, Chiefs and Lions, among others.

And that's just one of the reasons the Chargers have spent the past week fielding questions about the margin of defeat.

"The only way to get respect is to go out and try to win the game," said Leslie O'Neal, the defensive end who is one of the few recognisable names on the Chargers' roster.

Thinking the unthinkable: What if 49ers lose the Super Bowl?

In a week of endless interviews, only one question left

Carmen Policy momentarily speechless.

What if the San Francisco 49ers lose the Super Bowl? The team president gave the inquiring reporter a puzzled stare, his mouth open but silent.

Finally, Policy responded. "What did you say?" he asked.

It could happen, you know. San Francisco, the most lopsided favourite in Super Bowl history, could lose to the San Diego Chargers.

Policy thought about the unthinkable.

"What would the reaction be?" he said. "It would be that we are, for the purposes of the 1994 season, an irrelevant team — because everything we did has absolutely no bearing whatsoever in terms of where we had to go."

"That's why Sunday is so critically important, because it becomes the closure of all this effort that we've been talking about — everything we've done, and every dollar we've spent."

Whew. Talk about press-

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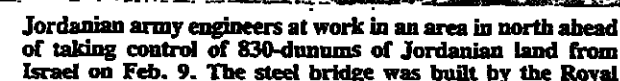
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SLOW ARRIVING AND OUT OF HOME

No one was hurt and no arrests were made. Police officials had said earlier the men stole 125,000 Egyptian pounds (\$37,500).

The rebellion, sparked by the cancellation of January 1992 elections the FIS was expected to win, has left more than 15,000 people dead. Independent estimates

the idea with the rest of the region. Mr. Musa said the idea was needed to take education in the Middle East into the 21st century.



Engineering Corps after demolishing an old structure. The Jordanian border fence will be moved to near the trees in the background on Feb. 10 (Photo by Rana Hasseini)

Iraq urges Arabs r

NEWS II

BRIEF

Fan killed at Genoa

Milan match

party, demanded an immediate halt to cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian security services following the report.

Israeli bus driver takes amorous detour
TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli bus company has "tamed"

UNLAWFUL (R) An Israeli bus company has named a driver, suspected of slacking on one of its routes. A 1974 Mazda pickup truck, which was involved in a fatal crash on the Hazareth stretch, was filmed by a hidden camera on his route. The driver was accused of taking a different route to sidestep a roadblock of busman's holiday - a common practice in Israel. The company, which has suspended the driver, said the camera after passengers along the route complained the bus often did not come to pick them up in the afternoon, a spokesman for Eged bus lines said on Monday. "He was not providing the proper public service," the spokesman said.

**U.S. teachers
still white**

mains white and female," said Judith E. Lanier, education professor at Michigan State University. Organized into a consortium called the Holmes Group, the deans blame the faculty and curriculum.

schools aimed at making academic research more meaningful to teachers. "We are calling for... a new kind of faculty member as equally at home in a school as in the university," said Frank Miller.

Shohat proposes dropping tax

Abandoned boy gets Japanese citizenship

TOKYO (AP) — In a ruling that gives hope to hundreds of stateless people born in

Year-old boy abandoned at birth but rejected as a citizen because his mother was believed to be a foreigner. The ruling will change Japan's citizenship policy for people born in the country of un-

Some European countries, Japan grants citizenship based on ancestry, not place of birth. Andrew Rees was adopted by an American missionary couple, Roberta and William Rees, who filed suit

Japanese," Mrs. Rea told Andrews after the verdict, wiping away tears of joy from her eyes. "The victory is not only for Andrew but it is going to affect other states."

U.S. to extend ban on nuclear tests

ous, he said. It wasn't clear how large that group could be, but the ministry said there were 1,502 stateless people in Japan at the end of 1993, including 138 children, 4 or younger.

1936. Signed before Sept. 3